

# W<sup>#1</sup>INNERS

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### WINDOWS USERS

February 2008

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Fountain Valley Branch Library  
17635 Los Alamos,  
Fountain Valley  
meetings on 3rd Saturday  
10:00 am to 12:30 pm

#### Future Meeting Dates

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

#### Membership

Annual membership is \$20 for individuals: \$5 for each additional family members.

## Coming to our February 16 meeting

### Wolverine - Empower yourself with USB

Wolverine - makers of fine multimedia, and data storage units, and players.

#### Wolverine ESP - 80GB Digital Photo Album and Multimedia Player

- ESP 3.6" wide view angle color LCD
- From 80GB to 250GB Storage Capacity
- Built-in 7-in-1 Memory Card Reader
- Display JPEG, Bitmap, Tiff, Text and RAW images
- Print directly to printers
- Multi Format Music Player: MP3, WMA, OGG, WAV, AAC & CDA
- Multi Format Video Player: MPEG-1, MPEG-4, WMV9 and Xvid
- Built in Microphone
- Built-in FM Radio and Recorder
- Built-in connection to TV and Stereo System
- Portable Digital Video Recorder (DVR); Record Video Directly from TV/ DVD/VCR/Camcorder

#### Wolverine MVP - Portable Firewire + USB External Drive

- From 80GB to 160GB
- Smaller than a typical PDA
- Sleek and very compact
- USB 2.0 (recommended) and 1.1 connections
- 6-pin Firewire 400 /IEEE 1394a /iLink
- 4-pin FireWire 400 /IEEE 1394a /iLink
- 2.5" Laptop Drive, 5400 RPM Drive with average seek 8.5 to 9.5 ms
- Compatible with Windows 2000/XP/Vista. MAC OS 9.1 and above



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WINNERS a computer association, is a volunteer organization providing a forum for sharing information and experiences related to Windows-based software, and hardware, encouraging ethical use of computers and software, offering service to our communities.

## Why Update your Computer?

By Kathy Jacobs, President,  
Phoenix PCUG, AZ  
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www.phoenixpcug.org/

Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

For Christmas this year, we gave my father a piece of software that requires Windows XP SP2. Imagine my surprise when he emailed back that he didn't have SP2.

Besides getting him a copy of SP2, I found out that I would need to explain to him why he needed it. I thought some of you might benefit from the information as well.

Like many computer users, my father views his computer as something that he should just be able to use. He doesn't think he should have to put any time into maintenance of the computer. I hear this quite frequently, but don't understand it. Would you buy a car and never put gas in it or never change the oil in it? Computer maintenance is just like the maintenance of your car.

The first line of maintenance for your computer should be Microsoft Update or Windows Update. Security holes are being patched every month. Those patches are made available to you for free from Microsoft for your benefit and for mine. Mine? Yes mine. If you don't keep the security holes on your machine patched, then you make it easier for someone to use your machine to attack my computer -

even if I am patched. Also when I send you an email the programs can harvest my email address and add it to lists so that I get more spam.

The second line of defense is a good anti-virus program. Again, you can't just buy it and expect it to run forever. You need to update it regularly, and run it regularly. If you don't have your anti-virus up to date, you will only be catching the viruses that were out when you bought the program. That means that any virus that has come out since you bought the package can still sit on your computer and attack from there.

The third line of defense is anti-spyware software. This software will prevent someone from coming in and "owning" your computer. What do I mean by owning? Spyware programs are frequently used to keep track of what you do on your computer. A common misconception is that anti-spyware is only needed when you are on the net. In reality, spyware can be installed in seconds while you are downloading your email and then it will run while you are off-line. When you get on-line again, the spyware will call home and send back everything it has learned about your machine.

The final line of defense is your firewall. If you have Windows XP SP2, you have a firewall installed. By installing and activating your firewall, you make yourself less visible to the bad guys out on the web. If they can't see you, they may not spend the time to come find you.

Continued on page 13

# RegistryBooster 2

By Terry Carrier

I've tested a number of programs on my secondary test computer over the years. I've also installed and uninstalled a number of programs. At start up the computer loads up my anti-virus, anti-spyware, firewall, UPS monitor, motherboard monitor, QuickTime, Intel graphics monitor, Maxtor storage monitor, printer software, TV software, and others. It takes a while for it to boot up. I turn it on when I need it, go away to do other things, and come back after it's ready.

Rebooting is even longer with it shutting down everything and restarting. So I thought Uniblue RegistryBooster 2 would be something good to try. Rebooting took 4 minutes 45 seconds. When I first ran RegistryBooster it found 459 Problems/Errors. The vast majority being Missing or Invalid Path.

The Windows Registry in a broad sense is a database of the hardware and software on your computer. It contains all your settings for windows and other software. Whenever you install new software it creates new settings in the registry. When you uninstall software it removes all those registry settings associated with the software, right? Well it does uninstall the programs, removing it from the hard drive. Most really do very little removal from the registry. So the software is removed, but the settings are still in the registry and you have a bunch of orphan links.

Even before I installed

RegistryBooster 2 I did a backup, for safety sake. It also can create a backup of the registry before you have it do any repairs. It can create up to eight backups, keeping the most recent. Before running it my reboot time was 4 minutes 45 seconds. After running and fixing what it said were problems I also used it to defrag the registry. Using RegistryBooster 2 (twice) my reboot time was down to 3 minutes 39 seconds, saving 66 seconds.

Okay that's great, but for a program like this you want to make sure there are no problems later. So I've used this for two months now and I can say I've had no problems. I've run it about ten times total. Each time I chose to trust the program with what it said was a problem.

## Conclusion

RegistryBooster 2 is very easy to use, and at \$29.95 it is a good value.

<http://www.liutilities.com/products/registrybooster/>

## Supported Systems

Windows 2000 Windows XP

Windows Vista 32-Bit

## Recommended Requirements:

Intel Pentium 4 1GHz or

Equivalent processor

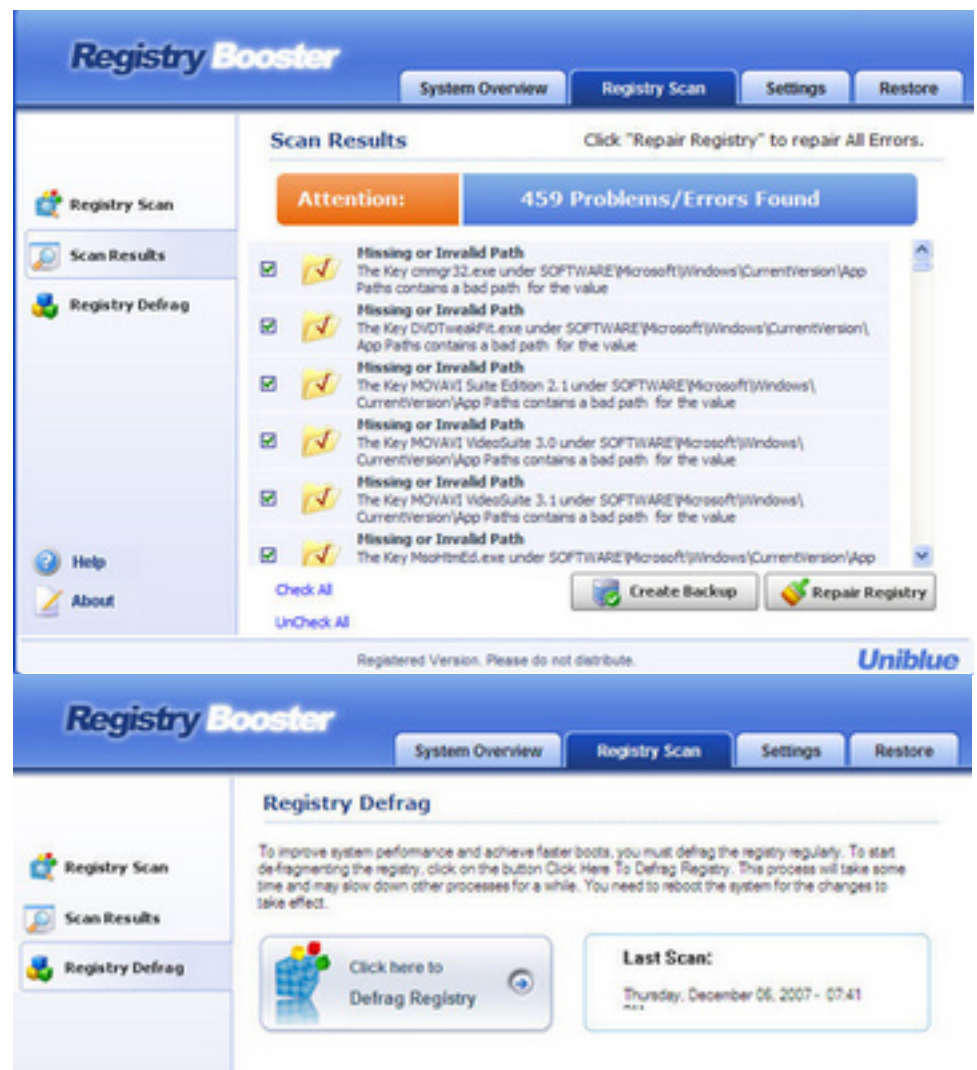
512 MB RAM

200 MB free hard disk space

Graphics mode 1024x768 true color (highest 32-bit)

Microsoft Windows 2000 / XP / Vista (32-bit)

Internet Explorer 6





# CES 2008 Computers

By Terry Currier

## Amiga [www.amiga.com](http://www.amiga.com)

Amiga (remember them) launched the availability of AmigaAnywhere™ version 2, the first phase of the Amiga OS. The new platform offers more features and flexibility to safely move content from a physical to a digital environment and instantly run all types of content on a variety of devices, including mobile phones, cameras, audio and video players, STBs, laptops, PCs and servers. Features will include a device-independent, single, ubiquitous Virtual Environment (VEN) that functions across different operating system and the Internet. Under the new platform, consumers are able to have the same user experience to engage in activities such as listening to music, surfing the net, buying video, editing photos, or working on work contracts. It dynamically scales the applications/services to the accessory device.

## ASUS [www.asus.com](http://www.asus.com)

Revealed the new Travelstar 5K500 (500 GB 2.5 Inch hard drive) from Hitachi has been integrated into the ASUS M50 and M70 series multimedia notebook PCs. R50A Ultra Mobile PC with full PC, and GPS functionality. It is the World's first UMPC with built-in GPS and webcam. Users can capture, communicate, or create anywhere with 3G / 3.5G connectivity.

Features:

- Intel® Menlow Technology
- Intel® Silverthorne 1.3GHz Processor; Intel® Poulsbo chipset
- Integrated WiFi 802.11b/g, Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Stylus input
- 5.6" TFT LCD with 1024 x 600 touch panel - sun readable option available
- Built in fingerprint reader with ASUS Security Protect Manager
- On-board 1GB memory

Lamborghini VX2Sn Notebook designed with Lamborghini, enclosed in a piano-paint chassis accented by genuine leather

Features

- Blu-ray optical drive and ultra high resolution screen provide riveting 1080p enjoyment
- NVIDIA® Geforce 9500 dedicated graphics



with 512MB VRAM

- Intel® T9500 Processor
- 15.4" ultra-high resolution widescreen
- Fingerprint reader
- 240 degree swiveling webcam
- 802.11a/b/g/n wireless connection

G2Sg Notebook, built from the ground up as the ultimate gaming system.

Features:

- 17" dual lamp screen offers 1920 x 1200 resolution and a lighting quick 8ms response time
- 4 integrated speakers, a subwoofer, and Dolby Digital Live
- Discrete Graphics Engine featuring NVIDIA® GeForce 8700M GT 512MB
- Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor
- 1.3 megapixel webcam for video communication without wires
- Supports Intel® Turbo Memory Technology
- Intel PM965 Series (Crestline) 800MHz FSB + ICH8M
- 2 x SODIMM socket for expansion up to 2GB/4GB DDRII DRAM support



M50 Notebook

- Dolby Home Theater certified sound for an immersive audio experience
- Dual hard drives featuring RAID support for added data reliability

- NVIDIA® GeForce 8600M GT with 256MB VRAM
- Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor

T7700/7500/7300/7100

- Hybrid TV Tuner (Analog & Digital) - Optional
- HDMI, eSATA
- 15.4" WXGA/WXGA+/WSXGA+ ASUS
- Integrated 240 degree swiveling webcam
- Dual mode touchpad for convenient AV control



- Intel® Mobile PM965 Express Chipset with ICH8M South Bridge
- 1GB Turbo Memory

**Dell** [www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com)



Dell had on the floor what they called the Dell Lounge, to showcase their latest products and sneak peeks of future developments. Among them was a concept laptop with a 16-inch

display. The concept laptop had a picture-perfect full HD 16:9 aspect ratio and a preview of a mainstream XPS™ gaming desktop that will offer performance approaching purpose-built gaming systems. New products making a public appearance included the Inspiron™ 1525 notebook, a 30-inch UltraSharp™ display and the distinctive Crystal flat panel display, which was demonstrated at last year's CES as a concept product.

Dell's digital home demo showcases convergence of the TV and PC. The solution features an XPS 420 desktop configured with Windows Vista® Ultimate and the ATI TV Wonder™ Digital Cable Tuner, enabling users to watch, pause, replay and record premium HD content from digital cable channels. The XPS 420 is paired with a Linksys Media Center Extender (DMA2100), which transfers live or recorded HD video content, digital photos and music across a wired or 802.11n wireless network to any TV in the home.

For those who feel the need for speed, Alienware showcased the new Area-51 m15x notebook, complete with the latest graphics technology from NVIDIA, as well as demoing an ALX desktop with next-generation architecture from Intel. The XPS M1730 World of Warcraft Edition notebook was also on display.

**Everex** [www.everex.com](http://www.everex.com)

Unveiled the CloudBook Ultra-Mobile PC a 7" UMPC model to feature popular Open Source software from gOS. It measures 9" in length and 2 pounds in weight, and comes with a 1.2GHz VIA C7-M ULV mobile processor. The laptop averages 5 hours of battery life on



a 4-cell, lithium-ion battery. Features 30GB of internal storage, digital video output (DVI-I), 4-in-1 card reader and 1.3MP webcam. Audio is High Definition Audio Codec with built-in speakers, and has built-in WLAN: 802.11b/g. 10/100 Ethernet, I/O: (1) DVI-I port, (2) USB 2.0 ports, (1) RJ45 Ethernet port, (1) Headphone/Line Out jack, (1) Microphone/Line In jack, (1) 4-in-1 Media Card Reader (Secure Digital, Multi-Media Card, Memory Stick, Memory Stick PRO). Available January 25th, the CE1200V will be available at Walmart.com for \$399.

**Gateway** [www.gateway.com](http://www.gateway.com)

Gateway today unveiled two new FX Series desktops designed for extreme gaming and other high-performance, graphic-intensive multimedia



applications. Featuring AMD quad-core power and NVIDIA® GeForce® 8800GT graphics. The NVIDIA card features 112 stream processors and ultra-fast frame rates to play the hottest DirectX®10 games with 512MB video memory in a single card. Combined with 3GB of memory, the FX7020 comes with a 400 watt power supply. Rounding it out is a combo standard definition (NTSC)/high definition (ATSC) TV Tuner with a Media Center remote control, so customers can watch and record live television. Rich 8-channel, 7.1 high-definition audio delivers a premium sound experience for viewing the latest games, online entertainment and DVD movies. With a price point of just \$1,099, it costs well below a comparable \$2,000 system. The Gateway FX540 Series brings several new leading technologies to the FX line, including:

- a NVIDIA SLI-capable motherboard
- dual PCIe x16 slots with SLI support
- the ability to run dual NVIDIA 8800 GT/ GTX factory limited warranted over-clocked video cards in SLI mode for the maximum performance
- support for 800MHz memory standard on select systems
- dual Gigabit Ethernet for maximum online gaming performance

As an SLI-Ready PC it can be upgraded with a second graphics card. Last but not least, the Gateway FX540 Series includes a 700 watt power supply, ensuring it can support any additional high-performance hardware or future expansion requirements. Prices range from \$1,000 to \$3,800 depending on model and configuration.

#### **gOS 2.0** [www.thinkgos.com](http://www.thinkgos.com)

Good OS, the open source startup that introduced gOS, a Linux operating system with Google and web applications, on a \$199 Wal-Mart PC last November, announced the gOS Rocket. Rocket is packed with Google Gears, new online offline synchronization technology from Google that enables offline use of web apps; gBooth, a browser-based web cam application with special effects, integration with Facebook and other web services; shortcuts to launch Google Reader, Talk, and Finance on the desktop; an online storage drive powered by Box.net; and Virtual Desktops, an intuitive feature to easily group and move applications across multiple desktop spaces. Get gOS Rocket Developer Kit with VIA motherboard and CPU at ClubIT.com. Everex CloudBook, gPC, gPC mini, gBook available at Wal-Mart.com.

#### **HP** [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)

The HP Pavilion Slimline s3330f PC gives the user full functionality in a PC that's one-third the size of a conventional tower PC. With the Dual Format Blu-Ray and HD-DVD player plus a TV tuner, consumers can record their favorite TV shows and play the latest high-definition movies. In addition, the NVIDIA GeForce 8500 card with HDMI port allows consumers to connect this PC to their high-definition TVs or play the latest DirectX10 games in an affordable PC under \$1,000.

With the HP Pavilion Elite m9100 series PC you get the 64-bit edition of Windows Vista® Home Premium and 4 GB of memory and Intel® Quad Core™ processor. The HP Easy Backup button can be set to automatically back



up files, and two built-in drive bays enable up to 1 TB of optional additional storage.

The new HP Pavilion a6330f PC is perfect for photo enthusiasts. It comes with a 500 GB hard drive, and HP Photosmart Essential so users can organize, edit, share and protect their digital images.



The HP Pocket Media Drive bay lets consumers add optional additional storage, and the front-panel 15-in-1 memory card reader simplifies transferring photos and files to and from a digital camera and other devices. The HP Pavilion tx2000 optimizes handwriting capture and offers touch-screen capability with a 12.1-inch diagonal touch-screen display that rotates 180 degrees and folds flat as well as a built-in digitizer. Comes with HP QuickPlay software, offering a variety of entertainment options. Using the HP Webcam, integrated microphone and IM (instant messaging) solution of their choice, consumers can engage in live video chat with friends and family across the world.

The HP Pavilion HDX series Entertainment Notebook PC offers 512 MB NVIDIA GeForce 8800M GTS video graphics and the latest Intel® Core™ 2 Extreme and Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor technology, giving it desktop-caliber performance. Now with Blu-ray and HD DVD support, the HDX series plays high-definition DVD or Blu-ray movies on the world's first 20.1-inch diagonal WUXGA XHD Ultra Brightview display. HDX Integrated Audio provides a audio experience with four discrete Altec Lansing speakers and the integrated HP Triple Bass Reflex Subwoofer.

A special note here – I hate the marketing psychology of .99 so I round up the prices of most of these items to full dollars. You're going to pay more than that with taxes.



## **Intel** [www.intel.com](http://www.intel.com)

Intel Corporation unveiled 16 products including the company's first 45 nanometer (nm) processors for Intel® Centrino® Processor Technology based laptops. All of these new chips include the company's new transistor formula and 45nm manufacturing process that boost a PC's speed, reduces power requirements, saves on battery life, helps the environment and comes in smaller packages for more fashionable and compact computer designs. With the introduction of the new processors, Intel will be offering a total of 32 desktop, laptop and server processors based on these industry-leading innovations.

All are now lead-free and, starting this year, halogen-free, making the processors more eco-friendly. Intel has also added new video and graphics capabilities with Intel HD Boost that includes Intel Streaming SIMD Extensions 4 (SSE4) for speeding up workloads including video encoding for high-definition and photo manipulation.

Intel plans to ship in the first half of this year its first-generation low-power platform chipset that will help deliver a range of ultra mobile and mobile Internet devices from a growing ecosystem of customers. Intel announced three quad core and four dual core 45nm-based processors for mainstream desktop PCs arriving later this month and throughout the first quarter of the year.

## **Lenovo** [www.lenovo.com](http://www.lenovo.com)

Announced a trio of IdeaPad notebook PCs – the IdeaPad Y510, Y710 and U110. Powered by Intel® Centrino® processor technology, offering such technologies as facial recognition, Dolby Home Theatre surround sound, touch-sensitive control surfaces and dedicated gaming controls. According to IDC, the worldwide consumer PC market is expected to grow by an average of nearly 10 percent annually through 2011. The combination of the VeriFace software and an embedded camera can recognize a user's face for log-in and help eliminate the need to remember passwords.

The 17-inch widescreen IdeaPad Y710 is designed with a smooth, blue, metallic finish, equipped with halo lighting accenting the top cover. Select models include a second, hot-swap hard drive to easily store and transfer data as well as Game Zone functionality. Game Zone includes enlarged directional buttons for enhanced game play, four user-customizable buttons

and a secondary display showing system information such as CPU speed. It also includes a performance control switch with Turbo mode for maximum power, including CPU overclocking, and Quiet mode for energy savings. Comes with ATI graphics, WLAN connectivity, five speakers including a subwoofer as well as an optional Blu-ray DVD reader. IdeaPad Y510 is a 15.4-inch widescreen with a black, textured, linen-like top cover. Equipped with integrated graphics, WLAN connectivity, five speakers including a subwoofer, an integrated camera, battery life indicator and a DVD-RW optical drive. The IdeaPad U110, an ultraportable 11-inch widescreen notebook PC, weighs only 2.3 pounds and is 0.7 inches deep. The textured design is embedded in its red aluminum alloy top cover. Lenovo also equipped select configurations with its Active Protection System, an air bag-like device that parks the hard drive to help protect data during a fall. Recommended pricing for the IdeaPad Y510 and Y710 starts at \$799 and \$1,199, respectively. The IdeaPad U110 notebook will be available in April.

## **Life|ware** [www.life-ware.com](http://www.life-ware.com)

Launched their new entry level LMS-100 and LMS-150 Life|media™ Servers. Manages all of your digital media – pictures, videos, TV shows, movies, music and more in up to five zones in your home. The LMS-100 is priced at \$2500 and features the following:



CPU - 2.33GHz Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor

- RAM - 2GB
- Storage - 500GB
- DVD Drive
- Tuners - 2 ATSC, 2 NTSC, 1 FM
- Graphics Card - NVidia 8400
- OS - Windows® Vista® Home Premium operating system

With dual internal CableCARD-enabled tuners, consumers can simultaneously access multiple forms of broadcast content, including 2 live high definition digital cable feeds. The LMS-150 is \$3500 and features 1 TB of storage using RAID 0.

**Samsung** [www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)

Samsung Electronics America, unveiled the Q1 Ultra Premium UMPC, the newest ultra mobile personal computer. It is aimed at the commercial market, as well as to those individuals that travel frequently and thereby looking for the smallest PC-compatible form factor. Fueled by a 1.33GHz ULV Intel Core Solo U1500 Pentium CPU



running at a clock speed of 1.33 GHz, along with 1 GB of high-speed DDR2 system memory, and weighs less than 2 pounds. Powered by a 57.7 watt hour Lithium Ion polymer 6-cell battery that will provide up to 7.5 hours of battery life. Additionally, this new model features the split-QWERTY keypad – Version 1.5 – which provides larger, improved keycaps making text entry easy.

Complete with an 80 GB 1.8” ultra-small hard disk drive, fingerprint reader for advanced system security and an SD/MMC 2-in-1 memory slot for easy memory expansion and data transfer. Includes integrated 802.11b/g Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR, providing users with wireless communications regardless of their location.

All models feature a 300 pixel webcam, along with a high-performance dual-array microphone, enabling face-to-face video chatting/video conferencing. Additionally, a high-resolution 1.3 mega pixel camera supports video recording and still pictures, allowing users to simply snap and send videos/photographs with a single device. Also they are equipped with a seven-inch wide WSVGA LED backlit LCD with touch screen that boasts a native, high-resolution of 1024 x 600. Integrated is the AVS Now instant-on feature, allowing users to enjoy a host of multimedia applications, including video, movies, music and still photos, without booting up Windows.

**Sony** [www.sony.com](http://www.sony.com)

With the VAIO notebooks come XBRITE-HiColor™ for making the screens look great, 4GB of RAM, and Blu-ray Disc technology.

VAIO AR790U Premium notebook features a 17 inch with a full HD 1080 widescreen display. Powered by the new Intel Core2 Processor T9300. Comes with an external CableCARD™ compliant TV tuner for viewing or recording HDTV programming. Features, 400GB hard drive, 512MB on a dedicated graphics



card, VAIO LT29U Premium HD PC/TV comes with a terabyte of storage so it can record up to 100 hours of HDTV

programming. It is equipped with the Intel Core2 Processor T9300. The LCD is a 22-inch, and comes with an external CableCARD™ compliant TV tuner for viewing or recording HDTV programming. VAIO FZ485U Premium Notebook has a 15.4-inch widescreen and is HDMI equipped to output to HDTV in full HD 1080. It has the Intel Core2 Processor T98100, and 256MB dedicated graphics card.

**S-xgen** [www.s-xgen.com](http://www.s-xgen.com)

I loved this last year, from Seamless Internet.



- Processor Intel®PXA 270 Xscale™ - Speed 520 MHz
- Hard Drive 20 GB
- System Memory 256 SDRAM
- Flash Memory 64 MB
- Operating System Microsoft ® Windows ® Mobile 5.0 Pocket PC Phone edition
- I/O Interface SD/MMC Slot
- USB 1.1 (Client), USB 2.0 Compatible (Host)
- Camera Video Camera 1.3 Mega Pixels
- Transflective with Touch Screen
- Communications Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g
- Tri-Band Phone 900/1800/1900 MHz
- Bluetooth® enabled supports A2DP/AG/ Handset/OPP
- 10/100 Mbps Ethernet (RJ45 port)
- GPS System Sirfstar III module
- Dimensions (Aprox) Length 6.5” Width 3.8” Depth 1.25”
- Weight (Aprox) 18 oz

Manufacture Suggest Retail Price \$1,395.00



**Toshiba** [www.toshiba.com](http://www.toshiba.com)

The Qosmio integrates the new “SpursEngine,” a co-processor derived from the high-performance Cell Broadband Engine™ 1,2 (Cell/B.E.) processor and Toshiba’s advanced image processing technology, and bring awesome levels of processing power to consumer electronics. With it they did demonstrations such as:

- Real-time transformations of hair styles and makeup that instantaneously recognize and process changes in position, angle, and facial expression captured by an integrated camera, and render them as computer graphics
- Remote-controller-free, hand gesture control of video, where simply moving the hand can control, for example, playback or pause
- Once a face appears on screen, it is recognized and stored in an easily searched index that allows viewers to find and playback video segments featuring a specific person.
- Image super-resolution creates high definition (HD) video from standard definition (SD) video, for instance video library recorded so far, by enhancing pixel resolution.
- SpursEngine’s high-speed transcoding from MPEG2 to H.264 achieves faster editing and recording of HD video to HD DVD discs.

Toshiba also announced it lowered the starting price on its HD DVD-R/RW notebook line to \$899, starting with the Satellite A205



notebook. Also, with the addition of an HD DVD rewritable drive Qosmio users are empowered with the ability to burn, erase and re-burn content to HD DVD-RW discs. The Toshiba HD DVD notebook portfolio consists of four models featuring high-definition widescreen displays with resolutions up to 1080p and screen sizes ranging from 15.4- to 17-inches. The portfolio includes the Satellite® A205, Satellite P205, Satellite X205 and Qosmio® G45 models. The Satellite® A215 notebook line will incorporate AMD’s leading-edge AMD Turion™ 64 X2 Dual-Core Mobile Technology processor.

While today’s DVD format has a maximum playback resolution of 480p, HD DVDs leap forward with

an image resolution that is up to six times sharper. The result is a visual experience with brighter colors, enhanced details and greater overall image sharpness. Select notebooks include an HDMI port and can be connected to an HDTV to deliver a pure high-definition image that will equal the resolution capability of the HDTV, up to 1080p. The Qosmio®, Satellite® X205 and select models of the Satellite U305 notebook series will incorporate Intel’s new line of performance Core 2 Duo mobile processors – (codename Penryn) designed to deliver greater computing prowess to power the most demanding applications.

The Portégé M700 is the company’s first Tablet PC



to incorporate a touch screen LED backlit display. It supports both fingertip input capabilities and traditional pen-based based input. It incorporates an LED backlit display with anti-glare coating, which allows the new Tablet PC to be viewed in a wide range of environments both indoors and outdoors. It uses Intel® Centrino Pro processor technology, including Intel® Core™ 2 Duo Processors, Intel® 965 Express chipset, Intel® Wireless Wi-Fi Link 4965AGN supporting draft 802.11n3, and Intel® Active Management Technology (AMT 2.6). Intel’s AMT 2.6 delivers the ability to remotely deploy systems and supply proactive security and maintenance measures. This provides the network manager better control of mobile computing assets to minimize user downtime and provide greater efficiency at the office or when traveling.

With support for an internal optical drive, second hard drive or weight saver, the Ultra SlimBay helps eliminate the bulk and inconvenience of carrying additional external components. The 1.3 megapixel Webcam provides mobile professionals the flexibility to communicate face-to-face when out of the office or traveling. The 3D acceleromometer helps guard the HDD against awkward accidental drops, including a spinning, falling Tablet PC, by rapidly removing the

HDD head from between the HDD platters. Toshiba also put a spill resistant keyboard to help protect against accidental spills of liquids. All new Toshiba notebooks are RoHS-compatible<sup>2</sup>, effectively reducing the environmental impact by restricting the use of lead, mercury and certain other hazardous substances. They also offer a computer trade-in and recycling program. All Toshiba computers qualify for free recycling, while non-Toshiba computers and other consumer electronic products can be recycled for a small fee. For more information visit: [www.reuse.toshiba.com](http://www.reuse.toshiba.com).

explained I call these “things...tweaks” and they come from dozens and dozens of places including many newsletters, also some regular blogs, newspapers, radio shows, other PC users I talk with and of course, the real biggie, MICROSOFT! Yup, their knowledge base contains millions of tips, solutions and you guessed it...TWEAKS! Our conversation ended with a suggestion that I put some “tweaks” in my column, so what follows are some that I like. But first, a reminder, whenever you decide to play, experiment, alter, or as I say, “tweak” an otherwise functioning computer, either do a backup first, or at least, set a restore point you can return to if what you do doesn’t work out for you. If you don’t know how to do that, click on start and then help and support and then choose index and type in system restore.

At the end of this list, I have a couple speed tweaks which I advise should only be used by advanced users, and you will also see I advise again to backup or set a restore point. With that in mind, here is my list.



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## Tweak Your PC to Keep It Running Fast, Feeling Good and Looking Young!

By Lou Torraca, President MOAA Computer User Group, HI  
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Last week, I was explaining to a friend that I am a quick launch toolbar aficionado {:-)

What the heck is that he asked. I said I was just referring to the fact I use it instead of the desktop to keep all my shortcuts, actually, lots of shortcuts, at least on my main PC. As we continued to talk about this I found myself explaining a lot of stuff I have done with my PCs and notebook in the past 6 or 8 years! An obvious question came up: “where do you come up with these things?” At that point I

The area that sits between the start button and the tray (with the clock), on the bottom of your screen, is called the Taskbar.

I think one of the best additions you can make to your Taskbar is the Quick Launch Toolbar. Quick Launch gives you fast access to Internet Explorer and Outlook Express, and it includes a Show Desktop icon. It’s really easy to open your Quick Launch Toolbar.

Right-click the Taskbar, click on Toolbars, and choose Quick Launch. The Quick Launch Toolbar now appears on your Taskbar right next to your Start button. You’ll find the Quick Launch Toolbar very useful and to move all the icons you have on your desktop, just drag and drop them on the QL taskbar. You can play around with it and also expand it if need be. After you drag an icon there, you can delete it off your desktop so you have a neat looking space where I put different pictures every week or so. To be really neat, I hide the whole thing so it automatically disappears until I Point at it with my mouse. Right click on start, properties, taskbar and check auto hide.

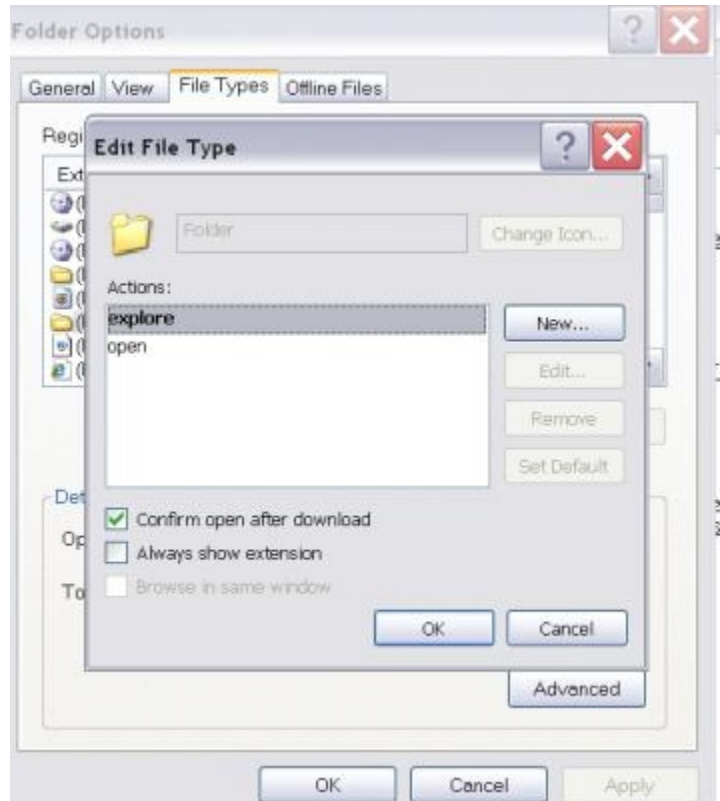
If you can copy or move things to a folder, keeping information on your computer more organized is easier. Here is how to add copy or move to a folder to Windows Explorer. Open Windows Explorer (not Internet Explorer) by clicking on Start and then on My Documents. Next, click on an empty area of the standard button bar, the one that starts with the Back button. Last, click on customize. In the available toolbar buttons: list, click on copy to and then click on add to add it to the current toolbar buttons list. Click on Close to complete the customization work. Now the next time you click on a file or folder, the Move to and Copy to folder buttons will appear

If you ever have the need to copy both files and folders to a CD, as in backing up your important information, here's an easy way to do it. Click on Start, and then click on My Computer. Now right-click on your hard drive (usually drive c:) and click on Explore. Now you have a complete list of the files and folders on that drive. Click on any file or folder, and then, while holding down the Ctrl key, click on any other file or folder you wish to copy to a CD/DVD. When you have finished, click on edit, copy to folder. From the list provided click on the CD/DVD R/W (Read/Write) drive you want to send your selection to, and then click Copy at the bottom of that small window. This will result in a folder with those items waiting to be copied. Put in a CD/DVD and click on write these files to CD to the left.

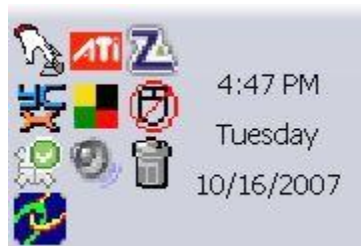
Windows XP has several utilities programs that manage various aspects of XP. You can run any of these utilities by using them as "run" commands. Click on Start, and then click on Run. In the Open: box, type one of these shortcuts and press the Enter key or click OK.

control	Opens Control Panel
clipbrd	Opens Clipboard Viewer
notepad	Opens simple text editor
wordpad	Opens Word-like text editor
compmgmt.msc	Computer management
devmgmt.msc	Device manager
dismgmt.msc	Disk management
dfrg.msc	Disk defrag
eventvwr.msc	Event viewer
fsmgmt.msc	Shared folders
gpedit.msc	Group policies
lusrmgr.msc	Local users and group
perfmon.msc	Performance monitor
rsop.msc	Resultant set of policies
secpol.msc	Local security settings
services.msc	Services.

(Run shows up when you have classic menu selected.)



I use My Computer, which shows me all of the drives on my computer, like the floppy drive (A:), the Hard Drive (C:), and others that include DVD and CD drives and removable drives, all the time. Having My Computer show a menu of it's items as your mouse pointer touches the My Computer link on the start menu is a quick way to get to what you want. To set this up, right-click on the start button, and then click on properties. Click on the customize button and then open the advanced tab. In the start menu items window, scroll down to my computer, and click next to display as a menu. Now click on OK, and again on OK. (This one is the opposite of the one above in that you need to select start menu instead of classic.)



That little area to the right at the bottom of your desktop can get pretty crowded. One way to get more space is to do away with the clock. You can eliminate the clock by right clicking on any blank section of the Task bar, and then clicking on Properties. On the Taskbar tab, click on the checkmark next to "Show the clock" and finally click OK. You can also check the



hide inactive icons box to gain a bit more space.

When you click on Start and open My Computer, you have to right-click on a drive and then click Explore to get the “Explore” view of that drive. If you simply double-click on that drive, you get the drive’s contents. The Explore view is better because you can work with folders in the left pane and folder contents in the right pane.

To have My Computer open the contents of a drive in the Explore view, from within My Computer click on Tools and then on Folder Options. Open the File Types tab and then click on (NONE) Folder, to highlight it. Now click on the Advanced button, make sure Explore is highlighted, and then click the Set Default button. Click OK, and then click Close.

Now when you open a drive in My Computer it will display in the Explore mode.

Your my documents folder in windows XP holds, by default, your documents, the My Pictures folder and the My Music folder. For most of us, the My Documents folder holds everything you use most.

To make the contents of that folder invisible to nosy folks, do this: Click on Start and right-click on My Documents. Now click on Properties, and then open the General tab. Click in the box next to Hidden in the attributes section and click ok. Now click on Apply, Select “Apply changes to this folder, subfolders and files,” and click ok.

This is not encryption, it just makes it harder for a casual user to open your private folders. When you want to view all files again, just reverse the process.

Speeding up your PC is always something most of us think about and the following tweaks are intended to do just that for your XP Pro operating system, but beware, these are intended for advanced users and involve using the registry...not recommended for the faint at heart! Before even considering them, do a registry backup- Here’s how:

Modification of Windows Registry files, which contain settings and other information Windows needs to operate with is risky if you don’t take care. Make a mistake here can cause your PC to stop working. So

it makes perfect sense to make a back-up copy of your registry files before you attempt any modifications. Create a batch file to back up your Registry, and then automate the process with an icon on your Desktop.

Click on Start, Run, and then type NOTEPAD. Click OK or press the Enter key. Now you have Notepad open to a blank page. Type “Regedit /E C:\AAAA” (without the quotes) and press the Enter key. Now click on File on the menu bar at the top of the Notepad window, and then click on Save As. In the Save As window, click in the box next to File Name: and type c:\windows\system32\REGBACKUP.BAT. Now click on the down arrow to the right of the Save as type: box and select All Files. Click on the Save button, and close Notepad. To create a shortcut to the registry backup, right-click on the Desktop, click on New and then on Shortcut. At the cursor type c:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\REGBACKUP.BAT and click on Next. Now type: Registry Backup and click on Finish.

If you want to change the icon for your new shortcut, right- click on it and click Preferences. Click on the Change Icon button, click Ok when the Change Icon window opens, and then double-click on the icon you want to use. Click OK

Another way to be sure you are safe is to backup your complete computer using either True Image (my favorite) or Ghost...both of which completely copy an image of your entire computer. Also, do a system restore point (see the help menu for how to) this may be the quickest way to go back to where you were if you have problems, but if not, the True Image or Ghost backup will do the trick.



Here's a way to make XP even faster, by making sure that Operating System functions stay in memory (RAM), because memory is much faster than your hard disk. Try this: Click on Start, on Run, and then type REGEDIT and click OK or press the Enter. The word REGEDIT is not case-sensitive. Now double-click on HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE. Drill down by opening System\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Memory Management. Right-click on the DisablePagingExecutive entry located in the right pane (side) of your screen and select Modify. In the Edit DWORD Value dialog box, type the number "1" (without the quotes) in the Value data field. Click OK and then close the Registry Editor. Finally, make sure you don't have any open programs, and restart your computer so that the change you made can take effect.

Lastly, it seems that our Windows XP computers just get bogged down with stuff we don't want or use. One way to get more performance out of your computer is to disable the "last access/update" feature. The NTFS file system in Windows XP maintains last access/update details for each file and directory on your computer's hard drive. This information is useful sometimes but for most of us, this may not be of much use most of the time. This process takes a lot of resources from your computer, so it may make sense to disable it. Once you have done that, you'll still have access to last modified information for files and folders. Here's what you need to do. Click on Start, Run, and at the prompt type REGEDIT and press the Enter key. Now click to open HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE, and then drill down by clicking on SYSTEM and then on CurrentControlSet, Control and finally on FileSystem. On the right side of the Regedit screen, look for the data key "NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate."

Double-click on that key and then just set its value to 1. Click OK to save the change and then close the Registry Windows. The next time you boot-up, this change will take place and give you a bit more performance from your Windows XP computer. That's it so...



Not really, but after all that it is probably time to relax and forget the PC for awhile, so be careful out there while you enjoy all the fun things to do with your new toys and on the 'net.

Aloha, Lou

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#### Why Update your Computer? - continued

Especially if your neighbor has an open, unpatched, unprotected system. Adding the protection of an outbound firewall to Windows can also help plug leaks and alert you to behavior by friendly programs that you may still want to control.

The way I look at these four lines of defense is the same way I would if a bear is after me. I can't outrun the bear. What I can do is make it less likely that the bear will come after me. That is the same attitude I want you to take: Make your computer less open to the bears coming after it.

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# CES 2008 Utilities

By Terry Currier

## ArcSoft [www.arcsoft.com](http://www.arcsoft.com)

BD Magic is an optional Blu-ray player feature that adds both a network content delivery channel and a powerful on-screen personal media library. Featured players receive updated Blu-ray trailers, Blu-ray sample scenes, and exclusive high-definition content direct to the Blu-ray player. Works with both Blu-ray discs and consumers' existing DVD and CD libraries. It accesses a Gracenote™-powered database of 50,000 DVDs and 3.6 million CDs worldwide to make recommendations and promote new related content.

ArcSoft® TotalMedia Extreme includes:

- ArcSoft TotalMedia™ Theatre: For playing back all movie disc formats, including: BD-Live, BD Bonus View, BD-ROM, BD-AV, AVCHD, HD DVD, DVD-Video, VCD, and serving as a universal video/audio player. This program is also available as a stand-alone option.
- ArcSoft TotalMedia™ Studio for creating your own high definition movie discs including support for AVCHD camcorders.
- ArcSoft TotalMedia™ VR for creating, archiving, and editing personal video content or recorded TV shows in high definition VR format.
- ArcSoft TotalMedia™ AVCHD for importing, editing and exporting video content from an AVCHD camcorder supporting optical discs, flash memory and hard disk drives.
- ArcSoft TotalMedia™ DVD-VR that allows your disc to contain playlists and chapters in DVD-VR format.
- ArcSoft TotalMedia™ Backup for backing up multimedia and all data files.
- ArcSoft TotalMedia™ Record, data mastering for burning multimedia or data files.
- ArcSoft Utilities for creating a disc image and saving as a single file for future backup; burning a disc image to a disc; erasing a rewritable disc; and using as a Guide to analyze your system for compatibility with Blu-ray or HD DVD.

ArcSoft Print Creations™ Applications Suite: This print-project software provides users with professionally-designed templates for creating greeting cards, calendars, etc. by adding their photos

and text. Projects can be printed at home or online, or shared electronically.

ArcSoft PhotoStudio Darkroom: This application focuses on non-destructive image processing for RAW, JPEG and TIFF image files. It offers professionals and hobbyists a complete set of enhancement tools and export options inside a thoughtfully-designed user interface.

## Centurion Technologies [www.smart-restart.com](http://www.smart-restart.com)

Smart Restart provides security for a computer by blocking all access to a computer's critical system files while at the same time permitting full functionality of the user's personal profile. When protection is enabled, all changes made to the system's hard drive configuration are wiped clean by simply restarting the computer. After installing in onto the computer if you have a virus or malware activating the program and restarting the computer puts it back to the time when it was installed. Cost is \$40.



## CMS Products [www.cmsproducts.com](http://www.cmsproducts.com)

BounceBack Professional Version 8.0 was announced. Several new features have enhanced the program:

- Up to 15 times faster backups than previous versions
- Multi-destination backup - users can target backup data to up to three separate storage locations
- Support for a complete backup including the operating system and applications
- Creation of a completely bootable backup drive for bare metal restore
- Backups can be executed on a continuous (CDP) or scheduled basis
- Bright, easy-to-use graphical interface based on "What, Where, How and When" backups are to run
- Support for Microsoft Vista, XP and 2000 (including 64-bit)

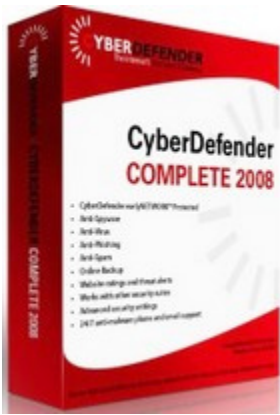


BounceBack Professional software allows two ways to restore a hard drive "crash." Following a hard drive failure, users may choose to simply replace the computer's failed drive with the backup hard drive, or



choose to restore their system, applications and data using the CMS Products BounceBack Rescue Disk.

### **CyberDefender** [www.cyberdefender.com](http://www.cyberdefender.com)



CyberDefender's safeSEARCH Toolbar v2.0 BETA is a free browser plug-in that offers an improved search experience while protecting personal information and ensuring privacy. This latest version gives users the ability to preview website

security rating and user ratings before entering a selected website. Available for download at <http://beta.cyberdefender.com>.

In addition it provides instant access to critical site details such as site owner, host country, IP address for the site, contact information, popularity ratings, affiliated websites, and a brief site description to help users make an informed decision before entering a potentially unsafe website. It also helps users clearly distinguish between safe and dangerous websites within search results from Google, MSN, Yahoo and AOL, among other search portals. Each time users search via their favorite search engine, safeSEARCH v2.0 displays a useful website rating icon within the search results. When users mouse over the icon, safeSEARCH displays a brief rating breakdown and navigates them to more detailed information about the website.

This puts users in control of their surfing experience giving them access to website reviews from other CyberDefender users, ability to post their own reviews, warn others of questionable sites or share info and ratings on trustworthy websites. It alerts you of suspicious activity in real time, before you become a victim of identity theft and potential fraud, including removing saved password data and educating users about cookies and IP tracking, among other safety features.

### **CyberLink** [www.cyberlink.com](http://www.cyberlink.com)

TV Enhance a TV-on-PC Solution, integrates seamlessly with CyberLink PowerCinema, a multifunction media entertainment center and Windows Media Center. Consumers have a complete, end-to-end platform for subscribing to premium TV

services including Satellite, Terrestrial, and Cable. TV functions such as live reception of broadcast channels, EPGs is supported as well as major free-to-air TV signals including DVB-T, DVB-H, DVB-S/S2, and ATSC.

CyberLink Live allows for placeshifting solution of live TV shows. With a TV tuner card installed on the home PC, users can remotely access live TV programs with time-shift playback directly from any web-enabled device outside the home.

PowerCinema Mobile is their TV-on-the-Go Solution, designed for handheld devices. Developed to run on the Windows® Mobile operating system, it consists of five major entertainment modules: digital TV, FM radio, music, videos, and photos. Multiple TV signals are supported including DVB-T, DVB-H, DVB-TH, T-DMB and DAB.

### **Data Drive Thru** [www.thetornado.com](http://www.thetornado.com)

Providing a seamless solution to the challenge of transferring files from one computer to another, regardless of whether

either machine is a PC or a Mac, Data Drive Thru introduced iTornado™. The device is the ultimate accessory for those replacing old computers, or switching



between operating systems from Windows to Mac or Mac to Windows, that need to move their files of all types, including documents, music and pictures to their new Mac or PC. iTornado is a file transfer micro computer that connects to two computers in a matter of seconds simply by plugging the retractable USB cables into the USB ports of each computer without the need to load any software.

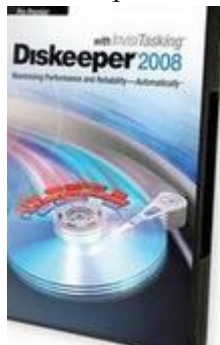
When connected to the USB ports of two computers it immediately initiates a peer-to-peer network via its patented No Software To Load™, or NSTL Technology™, which auto-loads and auto-runs the software and drivers needed to move the data bi-directionally from one computer to another via a user-friendly split-screen display that within seconds appears on the monitor of both machines showing the contents of each machine. From this interface, files can be dragged and dropped from one machine to another at speeds of up to 25 Mb/sec. It will retail for \$79.95 and start shipping in March 2008. Comes with a separate bonus copy of PC Eraser that can

clean files from Windows based PC computers to US Government Department of Defense standards allowing consumers to dispose of or donate their old computer free of the fear of their personal files falling into the hands of identity thieves.

Data Drive Thru also introduced PC Armor, a suite of intelligent security software. It does what AntiVirus programs can't, it stops malware and viruses from infecting your PC without having to know about the problem executable in advance. Monitoring all programs and activities at the PC kernel level, and paralyzes any activity or behavior that might compromise the security of your PC. The suite also includes RG Crawler™ and RG Guard which act as a first layer of defense against known bad executables that attack through the Web. It will retail for \$19.95 for a one year subscription. It will be available toward the end of the first quarter of 2008.

### **Diskeeper** [www.diskeeper.com](http://www.diskeeper.com)

Built for speed Diskeeper® 2008 is the most



automated performance enhancement defragmenter ever built. New features include the ability to defrag in the most extreme levels of low free space or the highest levels of crippling file fragmentation. Intelligent defrag dynamically chooses which software engine will net the most performance gains

on a given system or environment. This is all done completely transparently, in real time, tapping the full power of otherwise unused idle resources with a highly advanced background processing technology called, InvisiTasking™.

With InvisiTasking defragmentation operations now take place “on the fly”, in real time, as fragmentation occurs. This means no performance degradation is ever caused by fragmentation related build-up—giving the user a constant maximum in speed and reliability at all times. I-FAAST 2.0 (Intelligent File Access Acceleration Sequencing Technology) automatically boosts access speeds for your most frequently used files (by 10% – 80%).

### **FranklinCovey** [www.franklincovey.com](http://www.franklincovey.com)

Developed jointly by FranklinCovey and COMPLETExRM, PlanPlus Online is a secure Web-based application that provides planning, sales

management, customer relationship management (CRM), team collaboration and process management for small and medium-sized businesses via the Internet. Its familiar “planner-like” interface is based on FranklinCovey’s renowned planning and time management methodology. The application offers team calendaring and scheduling and an integrated contact manager that easily tracks all important client information, sales opportunities and activities through a customizable sales process. Key features include:

- Team calendaring and scheduling
- Organizes daily tasks by utilizing the Quick Prioritize Module
- Task delegation and accountability reports
- Manages and tracks all client information and history, sales opportunities and activities through a customizable sales process integrated within daily planning tools
- FranklinCovey’s planning methods and concepts within familiar “planner-like” interface for easy daily or weekly planning (Daily Prioritized Task List, Contacts, Appointments, etc.)
- Weekly planning module for accomplishing and tracking key goals
- Utilizes custom fields for greater flexibility in tracking clients and other key data

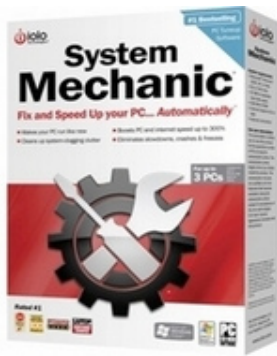
Suggested retail price for PlanPlus Online is \$25 per month. A one-month introductory subscription is available for \$9.95.

### **Grisoft** [www.grisoft.com](http://www.grisoft.com)

AVG 8.0 due out in March 2008 offers a completely new multi-threaded scanning engine that combines anti-virus and anti-spyware while retaining the product’s signature small footprint and scanning efficiency. Additional protection is provided in the form of safe searching and safe surfing protection acquired through the recent purchase of Exploit Prevention Labs, rootkit detection, basic security for MSN and ICQ instant messaging, and detection of malware-infected files on websites.

### **iolo** [www.iolo.com](http://www.iolo.com)

Demonstrated a updated System Mechanic at ShowStoppers. It automatically checks, diagnoses and repairs the entire system, fixing errors and slowdowns and cleaning out clutter – so PCs operate smoothly, reliably, and up to 300% faster. The new update for 2008 features a radically redesigned interface, with a



more intuitive, ergonomic layout; as well as more robust system tune-up, repair, and maintenance options. In addition, this new version offers key upgrades, including a disk defragmentation tool which can defrag drives up to 70% faster than before, and

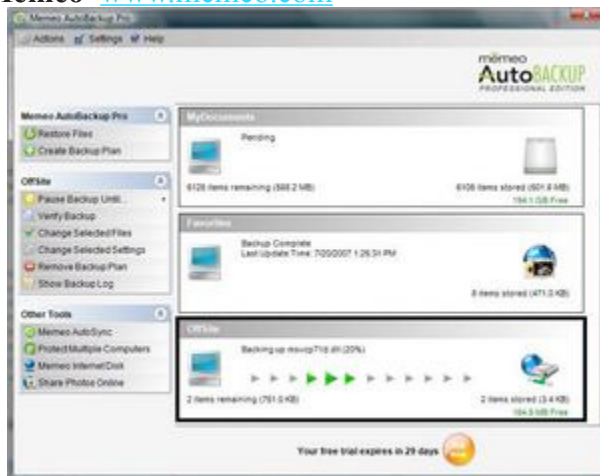
up to thirty times faster than the standard Windows defragmenter.

### Laplink [www.laplink.com](http://www.laplink.com)

PCmover helps you choose which applications and folders you'd like moved over to your new PC. It can move all programs, files and settings in one easy step. Choose connection: from USB cables, Windows Easy Transfer cable, parallel cables, removable media or a wired / wireless network to do the transfer. They include a simple wizard to set up the move. "Undo" Feature: Quickly reverse a migration at any time with PCmover's easy 'undo' feature.

With PCsync you control your remote PC just as if you were sitting in front of it. You can even remotely control a PC from any Mac, Windows, or Linux-based computer. Connect through firewalls automatically, print remote documents to a local printer. Access remote PC files, email, PIM data, and Internet favorites from any computer or handheld device. Download remote files to your handheld or forward them securely to other people. All data transfers are kept secure with 128-bit SSL encryption, and all traces of your remote access session are erased when you log out.

### Memeo [www.memeo.com](http://www.memeo.com)



Their LifeAgent makes Windows makes backups easier - NEW Right click on files or folders to add to a backup plan. With Back In Time – Users can restore deleted files from within Windows Explorer. A 30 day trial version is available. \$49.95

SmartTags™- NEW Backup files based on file tags (photos tagged with "birthday" are automatically backed up). Other Features include:

- Multiple backup plans operating simultaneously
- Ability to add file types and exclusion lists
- Encryption and password for additional security
- Native file format support at backup location
- Backup multiple versions of the same file
- Backup files queued when destination not available
- Only modified files backed up
- Restore to same directory path or to new location
- Compatible with Windows Vista, Windows XP, and Windows Server 2000

### Motionbox [www.motionbox.com](http://www.motionbox.com)

Introduced a new premium service that delivers a complete, secure solution for uploading, storing and sharing precious video memories. Also introduced TV-quality iPod downloads and new video flipbooks for sale, called Motionbooks.

Their free service, launched in 2006 let users store, share and consume their personal video by combining the power of cutting edge online video tools with a simple and easy to use web interface. Motionbox made it possible to move video onto the web quickly and easily, to create mini-home movies without any complicated editing software and to share those videos with family and friends.

For \$30/year, Premium Members will be able to enjoy all the benefits of the free service and gain the ability to safely store and manage their entire video library with unlimited uploads and capacity. The premium service also enables TV-quality downloads that can be transferred and viewed on portable devices such as





iPods.

Users are able to select a video from their video folder and simply highlight a 15 second clip from the frame selector. Each frame from this clip is printed in high-quality images and exported into a 3.5" x 2" Motionbook with four-color cover art and personalized titles, for a cost of only \$9 each.

#### **Nero** [www.nero.com](http://www.nero.com)

Nero 8 allows users to author and playback HD-DVD content; play and stream digital media through their digital home; rip, burn and back-up discs faster and easier, and more. Specific Windows Vista-optimized enhancements to Nero 8 include:

- Nero DiscCopy gadget: Gives users the ability to copy a disc with just one click and rests in the Windows Vista Sidebar, making it fast and simple to move content.
- Nero RichPreview: Easily browse and preview audio, video and images without opening it. Previews can be completed via Windows Explorer and/or the Nero FileOpenDialogue within Windows Vista.
- Live Icons: This feature streamlines the user's ability to quickly view content with enhanced browsing of thumbnails, support for a wide range of multimedia files and the embedded album art for Nero Digital audio files.

This update also includes play back of Mini HD DVD-Video discs, and burning of HD DVD-Video onto DVD-R/RW media. Smart Encoding, a feature that detects compliant incoming data formats from AVCHD camcorders, avoids time-consuming re-encoding by skipping the recoding step for AVCHD content when the destination format is also AVCHD. Advancements in the home entertainment features offer even more flexibility by letting users fast forward, and pause content streamed throughout the digital home via Nero's home media server application.

The BDMV features, as well as play back of Mini HD DVD-Video discs, are available with the Blu-ray / HD DVD Plug-in for users which can be purchased via the Nero Online Shop. Current users of the Plug-in simply need to update to enjoy these new capabilities.

#### **NTI** [www.NTIus.com](http://www.NTIus.com)

NewTech Infosystems, Inc. (NTI) announced today that it is shipping the latest versions of its Windows®-based software solutions with Blu-ray disc (BD)

support. NTI's BD products range from easy-to-use applications for creating, managing, and burning data, audio, photos, and videos to advanced backup and restore software applications.

NTI Media Maker™ 8 is an all-in-one digital creativity suite solution for capturing, creating, protecting, burning, and sharing data, audio, photos, and videos. Equipped with NTI's EasySteps® user interface, it provides out-of-the-box support to create data Blu-ray discs. Suggested retail price of US\$80.

NTI Ninja™ is a data security solution for users and manufacturers of USB Flash and other external USB drives. In addition to the user-adjustable partitioning, anti-tamper encryption and password protection, the new version has been enhanced with a new level of convenience. Users can now access the secured data stored on their private partition from any PC, anywhere - there is no need to pre-install Ninja on the PC to access the users' private data. It uses 128-bit driver-level encryption technology to create a private partition on the USB device. The user simply enters a desired size for the public partition and Ninja will automatically set the size of the private partition based on the total capacity of the USB device. After entering a password and a password hint, the user only needs to click Start and their new Ninja device will be created in a snap. With this approach, users can easily access and share commonly used data on the public partition while simultaneously hiding and restricting access to confidential data on the private partition. Designed for PCs running Windows® 2000/XP/Vista™, it has an MSRP of US\$25.



NTI Shadow 3 enables automatic, continuous back up of photo, music, data, and video files to virtually any attached storage device. For Windows 2000 / XP / Vista and Mac OS X. Not only does Shadow 3 allow users to automatically copy files from their PCs to various devices in real time, but it also preserves the files in their native format - meaning no additional software is necessary to restore files. It 3 works transparently in the background without disturbing you while you work, and does not take up important system resources.



FileCD™ 3.0 is a full-featured packet writing utility

for copying your data files to CD/RW or DVD/RW discs for transfer or archival purposes. The familiar Windows interface makes copying your data files as easy as pointing and clicking a mouse. Simply drag and drop any file/folder from your source hard disk to the FileCD window or simply right mouse click the file/folder and use the “Send To” option to select FileCD and in minutes you will have a disc containing your important data files.

NTI Backup Now® 5 delivers email, profile and remote-online backup/recovery features, hard drive spanning capabilities, and support for virtually all media formats.

Also provides easy image backup and disaster recovery to protect operating systems, applications, and files. It can create a complete image of data stored on the hard drive to simplify complete recoveries. Suggested retail prices range from US\$50 for the Standard Edition and US\$70 for the Shadow and Image Editions to US\$100 for the Advanced Edition.

Features included in all editions range from file-level backups, 128/256-bit data encryption and password protection to email notification and migration. Unattended backups (full, incremental or differential) can be quickly set up using the easy-to-use scheduler. And, with the File Exclude / Include features, users can bypass or select specific file types from multiple folders for backup. Backup jobs can also be appended or overwritten.

Email and Profile Backup/Recovery tools are also included to enable users to archive their important emails and critical data files as well as their current Windows configuration for their desktop layout, regional settings, bookmarks and more. This gives them the flexibility to quickly recover individual files that have been lost or restore the entire system to its backed-up state.

#### **Paragon Software** [www.paragon-software.com](http://www.paragon-software.com)

Announced the release of Hard Disk Manager 2008 Suite – all of the tools that every consumer needs to completely manage their home or office computers. This new version of Hard Disk Manager provides complete backup and restore, defragmenting, disk copy, secure erasure tools and more. Features include:

- Partitioning: Resize, move, hide, reveal and convert partitions without data loss.
- Backup and Restore: New to this version is a

simplified wizard driven backup and restore.

- Recovery Media is a bootable CD offering full access to all partitions on local hard drives. In the event of an unbootable system, the Recovery CD allows you to access and off-load important documents, correct corrupted operating system files or perform any other operation on the hard drive.
- Secure Disk Wiping guarantees secure and easy destruction of your critical data.
- Total Defrag

The Suite will be available direct from Paragon Software’s website for \$49.95.



#### **Pinnacle Systems** [www.pinnaclesys.com](http://www.pinnaclesys.com)

Pinnacle Systems, is offering a free program called VideoSpin™ specifically designed to make video editing and sharing fast, easy and fun. This is a complete package, not just a trial version, absolutely free. You can get the free download from [www.videospin.com](http://www.videospin.com). With it you can create entertaining movies in minutes simply by dragging and dropping videos, pictures, and music from the PC’s hard drive onto the timeline and adding a few transitions, and titles if they wish. There is a preview feature so users can check their movies after each change or they can wait until just prior to clicking on the “Make Movie” button. When the video is complete, it can be output in a common video format such as AVI, MPEG, RealVideo® or Windows® Media for viewing and sharing on a PC or a portable media device. Videos can also be attached to an e-mail or uploaded directly to popular Web sites like YouTube™ or Yahoo! Video™. Designed for Windows XP with SP2, or Vista™ systems. Comes with a 15-day trial of its Advanced Codec Pack to enable users to create and edit MPEG-2, MPEG-4/DivX® files and to share videos on devices like the Apple iPod® Video. Users can purchase the pack for \$15 or continue using VideoSpin without these features when the trial is over.

**Smith Micro** [www.smithmicro.com](http://www.smithmicro.com)

Revue Media management for your Windows Mobile® Smartphone or PDA.

- Lets you edit, enhance and store just about any photo format, including JPEG, GIF, BMP and TIF, just to name a few.
- Organize and browse images in a variety of formats: lists, libraries, timelines, albums or slideshows
- Search by detailed labels and categories that you create and define
- Built-in players work with all major formats, including WMV and MPEG 1-4, to organize, play and share your videos anywhere.
- Organize and search for your music the way you want, in just about any format including MP3 and WAV.
- Revue's simplified playlist format allows you to easily sync, monitor and manage all the music files stored on your phone or PC
- Easily search for and access all the music you own by song, artist, playlist album or keywords.



StuffIt Deluxe® 11, provides powerful tools that help you Zip, access, share and protect all your personal information. Now compress JPEG photos by up to 30% with absolutely no loss in quality. Compress documents from within Microsoft Office using StuffIt's latest plug-ins, with special optimization for PowerPoint 2007 presentations. Easily archive your files and transfer them automatically over email or FTP, or even burn them to CD or DVD directly from StuffIt. Multi-core optimization means faster compression and access to your files than ever before.

MediaRECOVER is the must-have solution to accidentally deleted files or corrupted media. It will recover images, including RAW Image files, email files, documents, and database files (mdx, prn.) It will also help you repair many corrupt files that are unusable.



Morpheus Photo Morpher™ is fun and easy-to-use. Transform your old photos into cool new animations that your friends and family will enjoy.

**Siber Systems** [www.goodsync.com](http://www.goodsync.com)

Announced GoodSync Version 6.7 as the latest iteration of the top-rated backup and synchronization product for personal computers. Version 6.7 now offers support for Web-based transfers via FTP or WebDAV protocols, making it easy to upload and maintain copies of files at distant locations for the ultimate in disaster protection. FTP uses the Internet's TCP/IP protocols for fast data transfer, while WebDAV, an extension to the HTTP protocol, allows users to collaborate on, and even alter, files via the Web. GoodSync supports backups to multiple devices and features both one-way and bi-directional synchronization making it easy to update the user's most recent information. Real-time action monitoring, an easy-to-understand tree-based interface, and automatic settings. Free for personal use; a professional version of the product can be purchased for \$19.95 (USD), with Enterprise and OEM pricing available.



**Sunbelt Software** [www.sunbeltsoftware.com](http://www.sunbeltsoftware.com)

Released a major upgrade of its antispam software, iHateSpam. The new version 5.0 adds a completely new antispam engine that delivers comprehensive antispam and antiphishing protection for Microsoft Outlook along with user interface enhancements that make the product easier to install with no configuration required. iHateSpam is an add-on component that integrates spam and fraud-blocking features into the Outlook email client, giving users the power to filter email so that only legitimate email messages are received. Because it is able to quickly respond to changes in spammer techniques, the majority of existing and new spam attacks are blocked while also minimizing the blocking of legitimate email.



A 30-day trial version is available on Sunbelt Software's website. Purchase price is \$19.95 and includes one year of free spam updates, renewals are available for \$9.98.

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# CES 2008 Accessories

By Terry Carrier

## **Actiontec** [www.actiontec.com](http://www.actiontec.com)

With the Actiontec zControl™ users can take “total home control” from a jumble of mismatched and often incompatible devices and systems to a consistent, unified experience unmatched in set up and usability. Housed in a small, unobstructive plastic case it can auto-discover compatible devices and pre-configure them, while also using configuration wizards to set up other new devices, appliances and services. All of your lights, motion detectors and IP cameras can be accessed as well as thermostats, electronic shades and blinds, and even lawn and garden components like automatic sprinklers.

One setting might turn on the hallway light, heat and lawn sprinklers after work. Others might raise the shades in the morning, light the house to set the scene for a romantic dinner, switch lights on and off during the day while you're on vacation, or let you turn on specific house lights from your phone when you're sitting in the driveway late at night.

Whether you're watching television in the living room, surfing the Internet in the den, or logging on to a computer across the country. Context-based screens allow different users to customize the interface to highlight the tasks they consider most important, eliminating on-screen confusion.

The zControl™ also contains a comprehensive help system that keeps you informed and guides you through any difficulties you may encounter. If something goes really wrong, you can contact a remote technician who can “virtually enter” your system and fix any problems. Users can add other Zwave-enabled devices by simply pressing the Discovery button on the front of the zControl™, and then clicking the appropriate button on the other Zwave device. The second device will then automatically be added to your network. zControl is the only product in its class with this automated discovery capability, eliminating the need to perform a two-step discovery process using a remote control or enter router IP addresses, SSIDs or other identifiers. It is also the only home automation controller that can use both PCs and Macs for scene setup and other functions.

The standalone Actiontec zControl Starter Kit is



available at an MSRP of \$399 including the zControl unit, one indoor camera with motion detector, one lighting control module, and a remote control. zControl-enabled wireless gateways and routers will be released in March. I met with Actiontec and was impress with how easy it was to use and setup.

## **AMD - ATI** [www.amd.com](http://www.amd.com)

AMD announced the ATI Mobility Radeon™ HD 3000 series, a new family of discrete graphics for high-definition gaming and video in notebook PCs. The initial offerings consist of ATI Mobility Radeon™ HD 3400 series and ATI Mobility Radeon™ HD 3600 series. ATI Mobility Radeon HD 3000 series allows notebook users to experience the full power of HD through graphics processing designed to satisfy the most demanding mobile users at work and play. The HD 3000 series offers support for DirectX 10.1 by enabling a higher level of visual quality through new lighting and rendering techniques designed to enhance the realism and quality of 3D games. New PCI Express 2.0 support enables faster throughput and greater overall system. Notebook users can play the latest Blu-ray and HD-DVD movies in full-HD 1080p resolution (HD display required) using ATI Avivo™ HD Technology which frees the CPU for other tasks. With a choice of digital outputs, notebook users can connect to a variety of displays featuring DVI, HDMI™ and the first ever next-generation DisplayPort support on a notebook platform. DisplayPort output capability delivers twice the bandwidth of DVI.

## **APC** [www.apc.com](http://www.apc.com)

Announced the APC Back-UPS® ES 750, a highly efficient uninterruptible power supply (UPS) that provides battery backup and surge protection to connected equipment while saving electricity. Featuring new master/controlled outlets, which work to reduce energy consumption by automatically shutting down power to unused peripherals, such as printers, scanners and speakers when the computer is in sleep mode. It can provide a combined savings of \$40 per year on average as compared with competitors' models.



It has ten outlets, all of which provide surge protection with five of the ten also providing battery backup. Battery power provides up to 70 minutes of run time, depending on the load. Carries an estimated retail price of \$100.

**ASUS** [www.asus.com](http://www.asus.com)

**WL-520gU - 125M Broad Range EZ Wireless Router**

- EZConfig - EZSetup and WCN lets any user setup secure Wi-Fi network within minutes
- EZQoS - Powerful and easily-operated BOD streamlines your Gaming/Audio/Video experience
- EZPrint\_Share - Built-In Printer Server lets all users share a printer wirelessly



Features Wi-Fi Enhancement: BroadRange™ delivers 300% more signal coverage than standard 802.11g. 125 High Speed Mode(HSM) technology enables 135% transfer speed compared to standard 11g product

EZSetup Button: Automatically SSID and WEP or WPA configuration

Operating Frequency 2.4G ~ 2.5GHz

**WL-160N - World's smallest 802.11n USB 2.0**

**Wireless Card**

- WiFi Alliance b/g/n Draft 2.0 Certified
- Vista and Mac OS full version support
- Easy installation: set-up wizard
- Support WEP, WPA and WPA2 for enhanced security
- Host interface USB2.0
- Operating Frequency 2.4 - 2.5 GHz
- Data Rate 802.11n Draft: up to 270Mbps
- Modulation DSSS, OFDM



**WL-500W - The First 802.11n Multi-Functional Wireless Router**

- EZConfig - EZSetup and WCN lets any user setup secure Wi-Fi network within minutes
- Plug-n'-Share hard drive function via USB 2.0
- ASUS Download Master - Download anytime

even when the PC is off or disconnected

- WAN Ports 1 x RJ45 for 10/100 BaseT
- LAN Ports 4 x RJ45 for 10/100 BaseT
- Antenna 3 x external dipole antenna
- USB Interface 2 x USB2.0
- Operating Frequency 2.4 - 2.5 GHz
- Data Rate 802.11n Draft up to 270Mbps



**Autonet Mobile** [www.autonetmobile.com](http://www.autonetmobile.com)

With their in-car Wi-Fi router users can simultaneously store personalized content and media on it, while accessing the Internet from any Wi-Fi enabled device. Now with any WiFi-enabled device multiple passengers can check email, chat, surf the web, game or communicate. Passengers can access their personalized stored content via the unit's simple user interface from any wireless device including gaming consoles, media players, laptops, WiFi enabled cell phones or web tablets. It is effective on more than 95 percent of U.S. roadways.

**AutoXray** [www.autoxray.com](http://www.autoxray.com)

A manufacturer of automotive diagnostic tools, introduced the new Drive Assure™ Engine Light Urgency Indicator. Designed for the everyday driver it provides motorists with an immediate diagnosis when their vehicle's check engine light illuminates. It is the first tool in the market to indicate how urgent the check engine light problem is to a vehicle's drivability.

Depending upon the problem code displayed, the Drive Assure Engine Light Urgency Indicator displays the appropriate color-coded urgency indicator:

- Urgent (Red) – Immediate repair must be done to prevent further vehicle damage.
- Caution (Orange) – Repair within two days so no further damage will be done.



- Attention (Yellow) – Repair within five days; not dangerous to vehicle.
- Okay (Green) – No trouble codes present.

Compatible with all 1996 and newer vehicles, Drive Assure is easy to use, comes in a soft pouch and is small enough to store in a vehicle's glove compartment.

### **Big Stage** [www.bigstage.com](http://www.bigstage.com)

They have developed technology which allows users to easily create and integrate a life-like 3-D avatar of themselves into everything from famous movie scenes, TV shows and video games, to music videos, short video clips, virtual worlds, still images, user-generated content, instant messages, e-mails, social networks and more – instantly.

With Big Stage's 3-D capture technology, users take three simple pictures of themselves with a digital camera and upload them to the Web, where they are quickly converted into a life-like 3-D avatar. They then map the contours of a user's face to generate an incredibly accurate replica of the user, fully equipped for animation. In under a minute, your avatar is born and fully alive through realistic movement and gestures. Users can then style it with a host of accessories, from hair to eyeglasses, tattoos, hats and more.

After users create and style their avatars, they can drop them into the library of Big Stage-enabled (BSE) user and professionally created content.

The life-like avatar creation system stems from advanced stereo reconstruction technology funded by multiple government grants, including the CIA, as part of a nine-year cumulative research project at the University of Southern California. Big Stage will launch to consumers in the second quarter of 2008.

### **Belkin** [www.belkin.com](http://www.belkin.com)

KVM (Keyboard, Video, Mouse switch)

The Belkin SOHO KVM lets you share one monitor, keyboard, and mouse between two or more computers, saving space on your desktop. Its new design incorporates a built-in USB 2.0 2-port hub (1 port in the front and 1 port in the back), and touch sensitive buttons on the front for convenient switching. KVM cables included. VGA, USB, & PS2



2-Port (F1DS102J) - US: \$159

4-Port (F1DS104J) - US: \$189

VGA & USB

2-Port (F1DS102L) - US: \$159

4-Port (F1DS104L) - US: \$189

DVI & USB

2-Port (F1DD102L) - US: \$219

4-Port (F1DD104L) - US: \$269

DisplayPort

A high-definition digital audio video cable for computing displays, graphic cards, and laptops.

Expected to replace DVI and VGA, DP is considered the HDMI™ equivalent for computers, providing both high-definition digital audio and video via one cable.

Available April 2008 for \$60-\$110 (depending on cable length), with it you can:

- View movies and photos at 1080p picture clarity on your computer monitor
- Have a smaller connector footprint compared to DVI and VGA on your desktop
- Future-proof yourself when DVI and VGA are slowly phased out--starting in late 2008--as DP adoption increases
- Provides both digital video and audio in one cable

### **Conserve Surge Protector**

The California Energy Commission estimates standby power losses in the average household to be as much as 15% of household electricity use. The new Belkin Conserve is an 8-outlet surge protector that makes it simple to eliminate wasteful standby power to your electronic devices. A wireless remote control keeps you from having to reach below desks, behind home theater equipment or around furniture to easily access inconvenient places where surge protectors typically sit. With it you can completely shut off the power to devices that consume standby power, such as TVs or computer monitors. Two "always-on" outlets allow you to leave devices that typically need to stay on, such as set-top boxes or modems. Available in the Summer 2008 in North America and UK, for \$50.



### **Com One** [www.com-one.biz](http://www.com-one.biz)

Offers a broad range of Bluetooth® and Wi-Fi consumer electronics products.



- Phoenix Wi-Fi Radio - Listen to streaming audio from an endless variety of Internet sources without the need of a computer peripheral; portable, lightweight and price-competitive.
- Bluetooth Stereo Receiver - Plugs into the auxiliary input of any home entertainment system or hi-fi stereo system to play streaming audio from any Bluetooth phone, music player or computer and has a range of about 300 feet
- Universal Bluetooth Stereo Transmitter - To send streaming audio from any non-Bluetooth device with a range of 300 feet.
- Bluetooth Multimedia 2.1 Speakers - Enjoy 3-D surround sound with your gaming consoles and MP3 players.
- Bluetooth Stereo Speaker - Listen to music wherever you go with your A2DP Bluetooth compatible phone, PDA, MP3 player or portable DVD player; serves as a desktop conference or phone speaker.
- Mic Clip Stereo Headset - Listen to your music wirelessly from any music device; use the integrated microphone to make and receive calls from your Bluetooth-enabled phone.
- Mic Stereo Headset - Comfortable wrap-around headset makes music sound great and integrates to your phone or computer.
- BlueSynchrOne - Syncs data between your phone and laptop
- Skype Over Bluetooth Kit - Allows you to make phone calls on Skype with your Bluetooth headset ... without a computer; no Skype program to install
- Bluetooth USB Adapter 2.0 EDR Class 1 - Lets you transfer data between Bluetooth laptop and peripherals
- Bluetooth® 2.0 EDR and Card Drive - Lets you wirelessly transfer and save your pictures and MP3 files



Whether using the Corsair proprietary all-rubber Flash Voyager or the aluminum-encased water-proof Flash Survivor, the large amounts of data on

the drive will be safeguarded for users with an active lifestyle.

- Flash Voyager 32GB ~ \$230 USD MSRP
- Flash Survivor 32GB ~ \$250 USD MSRP

#### D-Link [www.dlink.com](http://www.dlink.com)

Built especially for gamers by gamers the Xtreme N™ Gaming

Router (DGL-4500) harnesses the power of D-Link's Xtreme N Duo™ wireless technology data transfers and Gigabit LAN and WAN Ports for even faster wired gaming performance.

The device includes an updated version of D-Link's award-winning GameFuel™ technology to guarantee smoother, lag-free gaming along with a high-performance CPU, Network Activity Display, and a large selection of customizable options for optimizing a gaming network.

Xtreme N Duo Dual Band Wireless Router (DIR-855) is engineered to enhance speed and range when running multiple

devices including HD media players, game consoles and computers.

The next-generation Dual Band 802.11n Draft N Router allows

home users to simultaneously browse the Internet or send emails using the 2.4GHz and while streaming movies, music or playing games using the less crowded 5GHz band, thus ensuring that applications run as smoothly as possible over the wireless network and offering an outstanding Internet experience.

D-Link NAS devices and routers are BitTorrent Certified delivering high-quality content on the Internet. Currently, the latest BitTorrent SDK



#### Corsair [www.corsair.com](http://www.corsair.com)

Expanded its Flash Voyager and Flash Survivor USB family lines with new 32GB capacity offerings.

firmware is embedded in the D-Link DNS-323 NAS storage unit and certification has been granted for the D-Link DIR-655 draft 802.11n routers.

Network Video Recorder Technology Debuts is designed specifically to meet the high demand for security surveillance by consumers and small-to-medium-sized businesses (SMBs). The new device, which acts like a digital video recorder used in closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems, provides standalone recording management for up to four IP cameras per installation. In addition to its storage capabilities, it features a recording schedule, live streaming server, remote playback server, easy configuration, a Web-based user interface, remote live viewing, remote playback, video and audio streaming and an event trigger.

**ezGear** [www.ezgear.com](http://www.ezgear.com)

The ezSpace UFO (Uniquely Formed Outlets) is a



multi-outlet extender that solves the problem of fitting multiple power adapters, chargers and transformers into a conventional linear or newer circular power strip. Shaped like a flying saucer

with sloping sides it can accommodate four or six plugs of any size without blocking outlets, squeezing fingers, or causing bulky adapter boxes to protrude far beyond the edge of the unit.

The UFO is 3.25" high with a diameter of 6.25" at its widest point. The unit is narrower at the top than at the bottom with the sockets situated midway between the two at even intervals around the circumference.

The slanted design means the outlets are recessed from the bottom edge, enabling adapters to plug in without a large overhang. It comes in four- and six-plug floor and wall-mounted editions with or without surge protection.

Looking for a larger-than-life display from

your iPod Video or portable DVD player? ezGear's ezVision X4 Video Glasses fill the bill with a high-res 640x480 pixel color image that simulates a 60" screen



viewed at a distance of 8.5 feet. It's like watching a movie or playing a game in your home theater. Weighing in at just 2.1 ounces (60 grams), these ultra-lightweight goggles deliver the highest resolution and largest screen view of any product in their class. They easily connect to any VCR, DVD player, cable or satellite box, portable video player, and video gaming systems from Xbox and PlayStation to Zune, Zen Vision M or Game Cube. They also come with an iPod interconnect cable for hooking up to your iPod Video and can be used with laptops with proper cabling. MSRP is \$500.

If you've ever watched a child or a young adult play Guitar Hero, you've probably noticed that the fret keys on the guitar peripheral are too far apart for them to kick their scores up to rock star ranks. Accessory maker ezGear is now leveling the musical playing field with the 10-fret ezJam Guitar for Guitar Hero II/III, the first guitar controller for both small and large hands. The ezJam S-10, is a wired controller that also includes a strum bar, tremolo bar, tilt sensor and guitar strap. It is available in red, blue and pink for the Xbox 360 and the PlayStation 3 at an MSRP of \$80.

ezEars™ 360 Headset – enhances the experience of the Xbox LIVE® online gaming community. Allowing users to easily communicate with teammates and opponents. Lightweight with adjustable controls, the suggested retail price is \$19.

ezRemote™ – lets users control HD DVDs, DVDs, and CDs on their XBOX 360. The suggested retail price is \$20.

ezLink Extension Cable - is an easy solution for adding needed length to play all Wii games comfortably. The suggested retail price is \$15.

ezSave™ Memory Card – Save all your game scores and levels from the Wii. Available in 32MB. The suggested retail price is \$30.

ezGear™ Wii playPack - includes four accessories to use with your favorite WiiPlay Games. Includes a Wii Gun, Fishing Pole, Ping Pong Paddles and a Cue Stick. The suggested retail price is \$50 and will ship in March 2008.

ezDance™ Dance Pad –for Dance Dance Revolution for the Wii. Now you can compete or have an awesome dance party with multiple players. The suggested retail price is \$30.

ezJam™ Wireless Guitar – The ezJam Wireless Guitar for Guitar hero for Wii comes with 10 buttons so it's easy for small hands to reach. The suggested retail price is \$90.

ezGear™ Wireless 6 Axis Controller for PS3 – It's a top of the line 6-Axis wireless controller, supporting six axis tilting. The suggested retail price is \$49.

ezPak™ Extreme – The only case anyone will ever need for the PS3. ezPak has space for everything, including controllers, software, console, cables, and more. The bottom and sides open so users don't have to take their console out of the bag to use it. The suggested retail price is \$40.

#### **Gefen** [www.gefen.com](http://www.gefen.com)

##### **USB to DVI/VGA Adapter**

Allows a plug and play connection of a DVI or VGA display to any USB 2.0 port on a laptop or desktop computer. Video is delivered in DVI-I format, compatible with both VGA monitors and DVI displays. It allows users to refine video performance, selecting from a variety of screen resolutions to 1600x1200 and color depths.

##### **Wireless USB Extension**

USB peripherals can operate up to 100 feet in distance from the computer without cables using the 4-port Wireless USB Extender. This sender/receiver system delivers cable-free USB 2.0 connectivity at speeds averaging 54 mbps and is effective in extending a typical computer's peripherals such as keyboard/mouse and printer away from the computer.

##### **Gefen TV Switcher**

Connects four sources, including satellite TV systems, disk players and digital video recorders, to one HD display. Users switch between sources using IR remote, local panel buttons or auto-switch feature.

##### **Gefen TV Splitter**

Splits one source signal and delivers it to four displays or projectors at the same time. Supports HDCP and HDMI v1.3a pass-through compliance and resolutions up to 1080p.

##### **Gefen TV HD Personal Video Recorder**

Connects composite/s-video, component and HDMI sources, and outputs HDMI audio/video for each source. HDTV is recorded in the MPEG 4 format, and content may be stored on the 80Gb hard drive or the removable SD card.

##### **Gefen TV Composite to HDMI Scaler**

Ideal for anyone wanting to integrate old and new technologies, this enables a plug and play connection between composite/s-video sources and today's HDMI displays, and scales the video in all high definition formats.

##### **Gefen TV Audio Processor**

Creates surround sound in any location by accepting an HDMI source and outputting two HDMI signals: one is a pass-through to the display and the other is sent to an external audio receiver. The processor decodes this HDMI signal to provide audio along with six discrete RCA connectors to create a lush audio environment and an engaging HDTV experience.

##### **Gefen TV Audio Adapter**

A streamlined digital to analog audio converter that enables users to convert their digital audio signals to analog left/right in order to create enhanced sound environments with plug and play ease.

##### **8x8 Matrix for HDMI v1.3**

Connects up to eight sources to eight displays or projectors, offering complete matrix switching among all connected devices. Displays have access to any source at any time using a 16-key IR remote control or the RS-232 connection.

##### **4x4 HDMI CAT-5 Matrix**

Connects four sources to four displays, and can extend each display up to 330-feet from the sources using CAT-5 cable and individual receiver units at the remote destination, enabling an easy method of distributing HDTV throughout the home.

##### **HDMI Over Coax Extender**

Extends any HDMI source up to 300 feet from the display or projector using multiple coax cables. It supports HD resolutions up to 1080p with a no-new-wires methodology.

#### **Hawking Technologies** [www.hawkingtech.com](http://www.hawkingtech.com)

A new addition to its HomeRemote line of remote home monitoring/control solutions is the new HomeRemote Pro System. It supports HomeRemote modules and accessories and new HomeRemote Pro Wireless Cameras

to allow users to monitor, control and secure their home remotely from a web browser or from a cellular phone. It uses Z-Wave technology.

##### **With HomeRemote**

Pro users can customize their home with HomeRemote accessories or any Z-Wave enabled module to control all aspects of their home. The base level service comes free and includes local control of modules and accessories, remote monitoring of devices and





accessories, and video snapshots from HomeRemote Pro cameras (local live video is available). The Up-Level service includes, cell phone access with the HomeRemote Cell Link service, live video on the web browser interface as well as the cell phone, the ability to send alerts and notifications to cell phones and email addresses and full remote monitoring and control features of the entire system. The Up-Level pricing is a subscription based at \$9.99 per month.

#### **Icerage** [www.icerage.net](http://www.icerage.net)

Debuted its line of fashion mobile input devices with two mice options for the style-conscious user. The Pocket Mouse is available in either USB wired or Bluetooth™ enabled. USB Cable for streamline connectivity,

and has auto retractor to eliminate cable clutter. It has 800 dpi Tracking



Resolution. MSRP \$60 (USB), \$70 (Bluetooth)

The Ultimate Pocket Mouse is a desktop and hand mouse, laser pointer, and media controller, with a built in cursor control and alpha numeric key pad for imbedding letters and numbers on the fly. MSRP \$110. The Ultimate Mouse can be used as a regular mouse, or use in the classroom, for presentations, and for controlling your notebook from a distance. Make your point with the laser beam and imbed text on the fly. The remote control has a 60' range. LED Display Lighting for use in dark spaces. MSRP \$110.

#### **IOGEAR** [www.iogear.com](http://www.iogear.com)

Showed a wireless USB to VGA video card (GUW2015V) which enables individuals to add multiple high-resolution displays to their notebook or desktop PCs via a WUSB connection. DisplayLink's network display technology is the first to provide the high image quality and performance of VGA / DVI connections over USB and Wireless USB.

By using WUSB to communicate wirelessly to monitors, projectors and TVs, IOGEAR's



new WUSB Video Adapter helps eliminate cable clutter on the desktop, in meeting rooms and at home. The WUSB to VGA Video Adapter's performance includes instantaneous mouse and keyboard movements, output resolutions up to 1680 x 1050 and 16.7 million colors, as well as smooth DVD video playback.

The Wireless USB to VGA Video Card, also known as a Wireless USB Graphics Adapter or UGA, will be commercially available in mid-2008. To learn more about DisplayLink technology and network display products, visit [www.displaylink.com](http://www.displaylink.com).

#### **I.R.I.S. Group** [www.irislink.com](http://www.irislink.com)

Announced the release of the IRIScan 2, a portable full document scanner, an ideal solution to scan and organize a wide variety of documents anywhere you are. It simplifies all your retyping needs, designed to be carried anywhere: it is compact, light, USB powered and fits any laptop suitcase.

Available in two versions – Express and Executive - and comes with an extended suite of useful applications to manage your paper documents in the most efficient and easiest way. Readiris Pro 11 PC and/or Mac (OCR software) will recognize your documents text information or generate PDF or any



editable office documents. I.R.I.S. Desktop Search will allow you to quickly find any document from your computer, using only a few keywords. Cardiris Pro 4 for PC and Mac scans, recognizes, sorts and exports scanned business cards into contacts you can use in any and all popular contact managers. Also part of the software suite is Roxio PhotoSuite Special Edition to capture, edit and create spectacular photo projects (for PC only). Finally, @Prompt, which comes with the IRIScan 2 Executive, is a powerful full document translation software, available in 11 language pairs.

#### **Kingston Technology** [www.kingston.com](http://www.kingston.com)

The DataTraveler® Style is a USB Flash drive that allows consumers to add a personal touch, is now available exclusively at Amazon.com. It can be personalized via a special insert on the drive's case to reflect the personality of its owner. The DT Style comes with six pre-printed labels: bamboo, lace,

redhead mosaic, retro, sunflower and tangerine dream. Kingston created a special Web page where users can upload their own photo, graphic design or artwork as well as view and download more designs and insert



text. Once printed, the personalized label slides easily into the clear cover. An easy-to-use 'thumb-action slider' extends and retracts the USB connector. The DataTraveler Style comes with a five-year warranty and Kingston's 24/7 technical support. Windows Vista ReadyBoost is not supported. MSRP (U.S. only) - 1GB \$ 16.00, 2GB \$ 27.00, 4GB \$ 54.00, 8GB \$ 111.00.

#### **Logitech** [www.logitech.com](http://www.logitech.com)

Logitech unveiled the Logitech® diNovo Mini™ palm-sized keyboard with media remote and ClickPad. Designed for people who have connected their PC to their TV, the highly compact, stylish diNovo Mini keyboard makes it easy to control PC entertainment from the sofa. For easy navigation the keyboard features backlighting and an innovative ClickPad, which can be used as a touch pad to point, scroll and click – or as a directional pad to navigate menus and make selections. The mini-keyboard uses Bluetooth® 2.0 wireless technology for unfettered use from the sofa or anywhere in the living room.

The keyboard features a keypad, dedicated hotkeys for media players and Web browsers, as well as prominent Page Up and Page Down buttons, which allow people to scroll



when surfing the Web as well as zoom in and out of documents and images. The keyboard even offers a dedicated button that launches Windows Media Center, as well as a row of media controls that allow people to adjust volume and easily play, pause, stop, fast forward and rewind. Finally, the Page Up and Page Down buttons allow people to quickly change

channels while watching Internet-based television. The suggested retail price is \$150 (U.S.).

Also introduced was the Logitech® Cordless Desktop® MX™ 5500 Revolution the keyboard-and-mouse combination uses Bluetooth® wireless technology. With its MicroGear™ Precision Scroll Wheel, the MX Revolution mouse offers people two exceptional modes of navigation. They can fly effortlessly through long documents and Web pages, spinning the scroll wheel freely to move through up to 10,000 lines of a spreadsheet in seven seconds. For more efficient searching, the MX Revolution provides One-Touch™ Search, which allows people to obtain Internet search results for any word or phrase on a Web page or in a document. Finally, the thumb wheel can be set to launch the Windows Vista® Flip 3D feature or to zoom in and out of documents and photos. And the rapid-charging stand eliminates the inconvenience of replacing batteries.

With the dynamic keyboard display, people can enjoy instant access and control of important information. The 2.95-by-.79 inch (7.5-by-2 cm), built-in LCD screen shows people the time and date, calculator, temperature, Web site favorites, a keystroke counter, e-mail updates and media information, such as band and song titles. The suggested retail price is \$170.

#### **Portus** [www.portushome.com](http://www.portushome.com)

Announced the release of its Z-wave enabled Portus Home™ system today. It gives customers real time feedback on their home energy consumption, whilst simultaneously delivering new levels of convenience through one touch control over their home environment. Customers stay connected with their homes and loved ones, from wherever they are, by providing a real-time window on their home through either their cell phone or Internet browser. It also enables parents to keep an eye on a baby in another room, or see who is at the front gate, from the comfort of their arm chair.

Home security sensors and camera motion detection will automatically detect any intrusion and instantly notify the customer via SMS, email or voicemail. Wireless cameras will automatically record video of any unauthorized entry and upload this information to the customer's personal online storage where it can be inspected when needed.

Customers can view current power usage, consumption history over different periods, and the cost of the energy consumed. When they exit their

home, an instant ALL OFF feature saves the time and hassle of having to switch everything off manually. Available online from April 1st, 2008. The Portus Home Advanced Starter Kit, including Portus Home Gateway, Portus Home Wireless Video Camera, Occupancy Sensor, Door Sensor, and Appliance Module will be available for purchase at a price of \$249.95. A service fee of \$14.95 per month applies. All Portus Home products will come with a 1-Year Warranty and 24 hours/7 days a week technical support, including firmware updates.

#### **NETGEAR** [www.netgear.com](http://www.netgear.com)

Launched of a new series of high-performance Wireless-N products including RangeMax Dual Band Wireless-N Router (WNDR3300), RangeMax Wireless-N Gigabit Router (WNR3500), 5 GHz Wireless-N HD Access Point/Bridge (WNHDE111), HD/Gaming 5 GHz Wireless-N Networking Kit (WNHDEB111), and RangeMax Dual Band Wireless-N USB Adapter (WNDA3100).

Based on patented antenna structures, but using conventional and inexpensive manufacturing techniques, the metamaterial antenna array places multiple antennas in close proximity, directing signal energies to targeted wireless devices while avoiding any signal collision or interference with each other. This enables them to incorporate six to eight internal antennas in a compact design to deliver superior coverage.

For the most efficient use and sharing of available bandwidth, the WNDR3300 features automatic QoS to prioritize network traffic. This enables seamless performance for a variety of applications such as Internet browsing and downloading, voice, video and gaming applications. Retail price in the U.S. is \$130. The NETGEAR RangeMax Wireless-N Gigabit Router (WNR3500) incorporates an ultra-fast five-port 10/100/1000 Mbps switch (one Gigabit Ethernet WAN and four Gigabit Ethernet LAN ports), to deliver the fastest possible wireless-to-wired network performance, and an array of eight internal Antennas to reduce the effects of RF interference and maximize wireless performance and range. It provides a double firewall to protect the network from external hacker



attacks, automatically upgrades itself to the latest firmware version and is configurable as a wireless repeater for use as a range extender. Retail price in the U.S. is \$160.

For high-performance network gaming and simultaneous streaming of multiple high-definition videos, the HD/Gaming 5 GHz Wireless-N Networking Kit (WNHDEB111) packages together two WNHDE111 units to provide complete, reliable high performance wireless connectivity between the home network and consumer media devices like Xbox™, PlayStation®, Wii™, TiVo® HD, Slingbox™, digital and IPTV set-top boxes, NETGEAR's Digital Entertainer HD, Apple® TV, etc.

Their Powerline AV Ethernet Kit (XAVB101) and Powerline HD Plus Ethernet Adapter Kit (HDXB111) provide a reliable, high-speed 200 Mbps network connection to the home network and Internet over existing electrical wires to devices such as digital media receivers, set top boxes, game consoles, PCs, or storage devices. Both feature built-in power sockets to save power outlet space, provide built-in quality-of-service (QoS), to ensure high-quality connectivity for high-definition video streaming, online gaming and Voice-over-IP (VoIP) applications, and easy operation based on a plug-in design and push-button security setup.

The RangeMax Wireless Signal Extender (WPN824EXT) connects into an existing wireless router or gateway to upgrade and extend the performance and range of an existing network. The Signal Extender dynamically selects from an array of hundreds of antenna combinations to find the optimal, interference-free path to each wireless client, delivering a fast, stable wireless connection.



#### **Newell Rubbermaid Technology**

DYMO File™ [www.dymo.com](http://www.dymo.com)

DYMO File™ software is designed to reduce the pain of paper by streamlining the process of scanning documents. It creates and prints a unique barcode for each paper document from user-specified information. A stack of bar-coded documents can then be scanned in one batch with the user's scanner or all-in-one printer, eliminating the need to scan one document at



a time. DYMO File's technology reads each barcode and automatically files each document on the user's PC or network. Ideal for paper-heavy small- to mid-sized businesses (SMB).

**DYMO® DiscPainter™**



DYMO DiscPainter offers the first dedicated CD/DVD printer under \$300 to print full-color, 600 DPI graphics in about a minute. At its heart is RadialPrint™ – or “spin” – technology.

This allows it to print directly onto the disc as it spins, creating professional quality images quickly. They include software so users can incorporate as many as 16 photos in their designs. DiscPainter also works with design programs such as Adobe Photoshop®, Illustrator®, In Design®, QuarkXpress® and SureThing™.

**DYMO®**

DYMO Stamps™ on-demand postage, and a Pelouze® USB-enabled scale. Both Desktop Mailing Solution and DYMO Stamps, which let users purchase and print precise amounts of USPS-approved postage with no monthly service charge.

**Endicia®** [www.endicia.com](http://www.endicia.com)

Endicia® is a leading supplier of Internet mailing and shipping solutions used by small offices and home offices. Users can print postage from their computers, track packages and create customized postage through Endicia's PictureItPostage™ offering.

**CardScan® Contact Management Systems** [www.cardscan.com](http://www.cardscan.com)

Captures, organizes, manages and shares contact data. Integrating hardware (business card scanners) with



software, CardScan® systems consolidate contacts from emails and electronic files as well as from business cards. Categorize, dedupe and synchronize

contact data to all your devices.

**mimio® Interactive** [www.mimio.com](http://www.mimio.com)

Offers technology that enables educators to digitally capture, manipulate and interact with information in the classroom. The mimio portable device easily

attaches to any whiteboard and connects to a computer to electronically capture and share everything that is written or drawn.

**Planetwide Media** [www.MyComicbookCreator.com](http://www.MyComicbookCreator.com)

Released Vista Compatible Comic Book Creator 2.0, a personal media creation tool that allows you to easily create and share your own story utilizing digital photos, music, sound effects, videos and animation. Comic Book Creator 2.0 users can also take full advantage of the superior features and functionality of Windows Vista in terms of visual experience, as well as graphic processing quality.

The recent addition of embedded software program Project Dogwaffe Particles serves as a comprehensive and self-contained painting tool with a focus on Particle Brushes. Users can easily create fascinating original



artwork containing shrubbery, foliage, trees, grass and a variety of other effects based on painting with particles and bristles, such as magical lighting effects, hair, fireworks and waterfalls, etc. Another prominent addition is Audacity, an easy-to-use audio editor and recorder that offers users the chance to record live audios and digitize recordings, and then include them in their comic book creations. Users will also be able to import sound files, edit and combine them with other files or new recordings.

Coupled with an easy-to-use drag and drop technology, participants can utilize more than 1,200 screenshots, caption boxes, clip art, audio clips and artwork into a selection of 100+ professional layout and design templates, and combine their creations with a personalized storyline to make their own comics. The retail box version is sold for \$50.

**Pure Networks** [www.networkmagic.com](http://www.networkmagic.com)

Pure Networks and Carbonite, Inc., announced a partnership to deliver the leading online backup service, Carbonite Online PCBackup™, to purchasers of Pure Network's home networking solution, Network Magic. Customers will receive a six-month subscription for up to eight computers with their purchase. Together the products deliver easy-to-use

solutions for some of the most pressing challenges faced in home- and small-office computing.

**Sandio** [www.sandiotech.com](http://www.sandiotech.com)

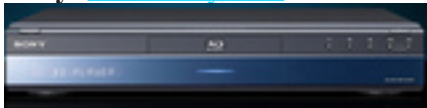


A 3D mouse? Yes, the Sandio 3D mouse enhances PC users' total experiences on 3D applications. Users of

Google Earth and Virtual Earth, for example, can now use the Sandio 3D mouse to "fly through" the 3D Internet without dealing with keyboard or on-screen navigation tabs. In addition, Second Life residents can use the Sandio 3D mouse to move forward, backward and sideways, fly, crouch, and turn right and left using only the Sandio mouse, leaving their other hand for controlling their avatar's gestures or any other options.

Users of CAD software like Google SketchUp, Autodesk's 3D Studio Max can move along and rotate about the x, y, z axis in both Screen and Camera modes without switching between 3D objects and operation menus. It improves 3D game navigation, makes it possible to effortlessly and intuitively manipulate camera views, and even provides a competitive edge with 16 programmable keys. Available in the U.S., Canada, Japan and China at an MSRP of \$80 (U.S.).

**Sony** [www.sony.com](http://www.sony.com)



Their Blu-ray disc player BDP-S300 features high-definition 1080/24p true cinema video output. DVDs will upscale to 1080p via HDMI. Comes with multi-channel linear PCM and Dolby Digital Plus Decoding. Their BD-ROM drive for the PC (BDU-X10S) will play commercial Blu-ray disc movie titles, recorded Blu-ray disc, DVDs, and CDs. It comes with CyberLink's PowerDVD BD Edition software. It is compatible with Microsoft Vista and XP. It has a Serial ATA (SATA) interface.

**Storage Appliance Corporation** [www.storage-corp.com](http://www.storage-corp.com)

Launched ClickFree™ backup products with both hard drive-based and DVD-based solutions. These products are designed for absolute convenience and simplicity, nothing to configure, no software to install,



just plug them in. The ClickFree™ HD 700 once plugged in via USB port, the device automatically launches, searches and backs up anything important without ever having to push or click a button. The user simply connects the device to the computer and the backup begins. Subsequent

backups are done in the same manner with new files copied to the device. Consumers can backup their information from up to five PCs. The HD 700 with 120 Gigabyte storage capacity is \$170.

**Targus** [www.targus.com](http://www.targus.com)

Three New Stow-N-Go Mice

The mice feature a tilt-wheel with four-way scrolling for efficient viewing of spreadsheets, photos, images, etc. For widescreen laptops, users can simply adjust the cursor speed with the convenient one-touch button and indicator light, which changes the DPI (Dots Per Inch) setting from 1600/1200/800.



Program the scroll button on any of the mice to suit your needs including zoom, magnify, launch Internet Explorer, Internet back, cut, paste, copy, double-click, etc. The Retractable Optical Stow-N-Go (ESP \$20), and the Retractable Laser Stow-N-Go (ESP \$30), laptop mice have a convenient 2.5 ft. retractable cord, which attaches to the bottom of the mouse for easy travel. The Retractable Laser Stow-N-Go and Wireless Laser Stow-N-Go mice (ESP \$40), feature laser sensor technology, offering 20 times more tracking sensitivity, making it easy to use on shiny surfaces such as glass or covered surfaces. The new mice will be available in March 2008.

HeatDefense

Lightweight and easy-to-store the Targus HeatDefense™ cooling system can be placed underneath the laptop on your lap or desk to assist in cooling your device and providing heat protection. It

features innovative HeatShift™ Technology, which uses a crystalline compound to absorb heat emitted from laptops. As your laptop heats up the pad, the crystalline compound melts into a gel-like substance, which absorbs the laptop heat and protects your lap or workstation from heat damage. Available in April 2008 at an estimated street price of \$30.

#### Travel Power Outlets with Surge Protection



Equipped with 4 outlets, Targus' new Travel Power Outlets with Surge Protection help protect your electronics while providing instant outlet expansion whether you're at

the airport, hotel room, library, or the local coffee shop. With its innovative design, the Travel Power Outlets accommodate oversized power adapters while allowing for easy travel with its ability to fit into hard to reach places. You can now charge your cell phone, camera battery and work on your laptop all from one location. The Travel Power Outlets with Surge Protection (APS03US) measures 2.80" x 10.75" x 7.70" and only weighs 8 oz. I loved this, once you buy one for traveling you'll surely buy another for around the house. It will be available February 2008 at an estimated street price of \$20.

#### DEFCON® Privacy Filters

Designed specifically to protect sensitive information displayed on laptop screens or LCD monitors, privacy filters safeguard data from prying eyes and provide an ergonomic benefit by reducing glare to help prevent eye strain. The new DEFCON Privacy Filter is designed to fit laptops with display sizes of 12.1" and 14.1" as well as laptops with widescreen display sizes of 12.1", 14.1", 15.4" and 17". It also fits LCD monitors with 17" or 19" displays and 19", 24" and 30" widescreen displays.

It uses small vertical blinds to shield your personal and mission critical files from anyone looking at more than a 45 degree angle from the center of the screen. By narrowing the viewing angle, anyone attempting to catch a glimpse of your laptop or LCD monitor will see nothing more than an obscure dark screen. The filter can easily be attached to your LCD with specially designed clear adhesive strips or with the included tab guides, which are designed to keep the filter in place and are simple to install and remove as

needed.

#### TASER [www.TASER.com](http://www.TASER.com)

Great news, while shocking a mugger you can look fashionable. TASER International, unveiled the new leopard print TASER® C2 personal protection device. In addition the new TASER MPH (Music Player Holster) which is a combination MP3 player and TASER C2 holster. The 1GB TASER MPH allows for both personal protection and personal music for people on the go.



#### Toshiba [www.toshiba.com](http://www.toshiba.com)

Toshiba is working with a direct methanol fuel cell integrated into one of their gigabeat portable media players. The DMFC runs on a methanol-oxygen fuel mix, and generates and supplies power directly to the device. The prototype DMFC can run video on the gigabeat for as long as ten hours on a single fuel charge, and can be refueled on the go for unlimited device operation.

#### TRITTON [www.trittontechnologies.com](http://www.trittontechnologies.com)

Gaming headphones:

- AX Wireless - for use with Xbox 360, PS3, PC, DVD players, Audio Receivers; 5.1 channel surround sound, 2.4 GHz operating RF; digital optic/coaxial interface
- AX Pro - for use with Xbox 360, PS3, PC, Mac; true 5.1 channel surround sound; rumble technology; digital optic/coaxial interface; digital Dolby Prologic II
- AX51 - For use with PC; true 5.1 channel surround sound; rumble technology; requires a 5.1 channel soundcard; inline audio controller



External video cards:

- SEE2 Xtreme - patented technology supports resolutions up to 1600x1200 DVI and 1920



x 1200 VGA, video playback, widescreen format; add up to six (6) units to one (1) PC

- SEE2 Xpress - patented technology supports resolutions up to 1280x1024 VGA; designed for business applications

#### Mobile Bluetooth devices:

- AX Visor - OLED Display, omnidirectional and unidirectional microphone modes; 15 hours of talk and 400 hours of standby on a three (3) hour charge
- AX Micro - Innovative comfort ear attachment; over five (5) hours of talk time with 150 hours of standby; high performance speaker and microphone; dual color LED indicators

#### Docking station:

- XDS (Xtreme Docking Station) - supports resolutions up to 1920 x 1200 VGA, widescreen, video playback; houses four (4) USB ports, an Ethernet input, and audio and video jacks; Windows 2000/XP/Vista

#### HDMI cables:

The gold-plated, quadruple-shielded cables are made with hyper oxygen-free copper and come in lengths of three (3), six (6) and nine (9) feet.

#### X-Gene [www.xgenelive.com](http://www.xgenelive.com)

##### 2.4GHz Wireless Media Center Keyboards

The PN-01030 wireless mini or full-sized keyboard provides the ultimate in convenience for not only general usage, but also for anyone operating a Windows Media Center. 2.4GHz wireless technology is ideal for precise keyboard and trackball commands at a distance of up to 45 feet from the host computer in any direction.

##### Thumbstick Gaming Mouse

They have all types of input mice from biometric to texturized, but new is 'Thumbstick' technology. This new technology places an easy to use joystick type of small controller on the left side of the mouse for an added edge to gaming or for easy Web 2.0 community navigation. The

Thumbstick mouse also has five other highly desired user features as well.

##### Hubsucker

For the ultimate in desktop organization the 'Hubsucker' has a powerful suction cup



that will stick to almost any surface. Stick the four or seven port USB 2.0 Hubsucker to the side of a computer or monitor to have fast access to USB ports or to clean up the messy wires that can quickly clutter a desktop.

##### Webcams

Users can create an unlimited variety of fun people or animal poses with the adjustable 'arms and legs' of the webcam. This feature allows the webcam to easily fit onto almost any monitor or laptop.

They also have an easy-to-use clip on webcam plus the adjustable height webcam.



#### Z-Wave Alliance [www.z-wave.com](http://www.z-wave.com)

Z-Wave Alliance is an open consortium of leading global companies dedicated to establishing Z-Wave as the standard in wireless controls. Here are some of show highlights from members at the show:

- Hawking unveiled its new HomeRemote System: The Plug and Play Remote Home Monitoring Solution
- 4HomeMedia unveiled three new innovations: its home health service solution, new integrated media + home control solution, and an end-to-end "Home Control Services" platform
- Universal Electronics introduced the NevoS70 Complete Solution for Audio Visual and Home Control
- Jasco launched an informational Website for GE Z-Wave Wireless Lighting Controls: [easyzwave.com](http://easyzwave.com)
- Portus demonstrated prototype of its new Z-Wave-Enabled home monitoring/home control/energy management solution
- Intermatic HomeSettings gave a demonstration on how consumers can go "green" with home automation

#### ZyXEL [www.us.zyxel.com/homeplug](http://www.us.zyxel.com/homeplug)

Announced it has added three new products to its HomePlug AV Powerline family.

##### NBG318S Powerline Wireless Router

ZyXEL's Powerline wireless router, the NBG318S, is an all-in-one solution that packs Ethernet, Wi-Fi and Powerline technologies into one box with the latest QoS technologies designed for gaming, VoIP, video streaming and Internet access. It features the ability to be connected directly to a modem and can also act as a broadband extended wireless gateway by connecting

to a modem via Powerline. This first-of-its-kind feature gives users complete control by allowing them to position the router at the most ideal location in the home and change the operation mode to use the router as a broadband extension gateway with a simple mouse click. It can also stream HD video throughout the home, overcoming most dead spots and interference. Comes standard with ZyXEL's DOS/DDOS SPI Firewall for advanced encryption and data protection. (MSRP \$135.00)



**PLA450 Powerline Wireless Access Point**  
ZyXEL's PLA450 Powerline Wireless Access Point is an 802.11g access point with built-in HomePlug AV capability and one Ethernet port. Targeted to customers who need to extend the wireless coverage in their home, small office or in a warehouse type of environment, the PLA450 does not require the installation of additional Ethernet cabling. (MSRP \$149.00)

#### **PLA470 Powerline Wireless Switch**

ZyXEL's PLA470 is a HomePlug AV adapter with a built-in 4-port fast Ethernet switch. Powered by HomePlug AV technology, the switch is rated at speeds of up to 200 Mbps over existing power lines. With a built-in 10/100 Mbps fast Ethernet switch it enables users to share Internet, printer and central storage over the Powerline network without the need to purchase an additional Powerline adapter. (MSRP \$108.00)



## **Bags**

**Belkin** [www.belkin.com](http://www.belkin.com)



**Laptop Hideaway (F8N060 - \$50)** is stylish storage that keeps your laptop and accessories accessible, organized, protected and out of the way. Its large handle allows you to easily carry your laptop, power cord, and magazines from room to room. Works with 15.4-inch laptops—both widescreen and standard.

Available in colors: chocolate/tourmaline, khaki/tarragon.

**Case Logic** [www.casellogic.com](http://www.casellogic.com)

A full-size briefcase (SKU-PNC-15F) holds most 15.4" laptops. Features:

- Expandable file compartment stores all your folders and loose papers.
- SecureFit™ adjustable internal compartment with moveable padded divider accommodates a variety of laptop sizes, always ensuring a perfect fit
- Quick-access cell phone/MP3 pocket keeps your portable electronics within reach
- Smart Organization™ panel provides a place for your gadgets and accessories
- Thick foam padding and durable material provides superior protection for computer equipment
- Built in Fast-File® storage for 3 CDs or DVDs
- Fabric: Nylon



**The Classic Madison**

- Extra roomy Laptop Tote designed for women.
- Padded, removable laptop sleeve holds most 14" laptops
- Internal organizer panel holds 6 CDs, business cards/IDs, pens and a cell phone
- Secure, zippered



compartment organizes your files and loose papers

- Includes matching, removable cosmetic bag and key fob
- Fabric: Smooth PVC
- Weight: 2 lbs, 14 oz
- Warranty: 2 Years

### **Golla** [www.golla.com](http://www.golla.com)

A Finnish company that specialized in fashionable bags for portable electronics. Coming into the U.S. market the collection includes a total of 6 categories: mobile bags, music bags, digi bags, laptop bags, laptop sleeves and laptop backpacks. In addition, laptop bags will be available in 2 sizes – both for 13” and 15, 4” laptops.



### **Kensington** [www.kensington.com](http://www.kensington.com)

Contour Balance Notebook Backpack (62534)  
Finally a notebook backpack that’s made for a woman both in fit and style. The Contour Balance Notebook Backpack is ergonomically designed to fit the unique contours of a woman’s body for greater comfort. Air-Flo Contour™ Panel dissipates heat and hugs the body for greater comfort and carrying ease. Non-slip shoulder straps are ergonomically designed to fit a woman’s body. Deep-quilted, impact-resistant notebook compartment with AirBrake™ bottom cushion protects your computer. Unique organization system separates smaller personal items from bulkier items, so they’re easier to manage. Water-resistant materials keep the contents of your bag safe and dry. Suggested Street Price \$70



Contour Balance Notebook Case (62536)

The Contour Balance Notebook Case is recognized by the American Chiropractic Association for maximizing comfort while minimizing



muscle strain. Air-Flo Contour™ Panel, with AirBrake™ bottom cushion. Sleek and comfortable handles stay together with a magnetic clasp for grab and go convenience. Detachable shoulder strap tucks away neatly on the side when not in use. External ticket pocket keeps important documents organized and accessible. Water-resistant materials keep the contents of your bag safe and dry. Suggested Street Price \$80

### **Samsonite** [www.samsonite.com](http://www.samsonite.com)

The Proteo Formal Wheeled Toploader Notebook Case (17916-1041) is the perfect solution for the mobile user on the go. It fits up to a 15.4 inch notebook, with foam that surrounds your laptop and offer better protection. Inspired by a car’s suspension system, the spring strips that hug and protect the laptop. Features:



- Shoulder strap with comfort padding.
- Easy Roll Luggage Wheels
- Luggage secure tote loop
- Essentials Organizer Compartment.
- Zippered front pockets for small items.
- Warranty Limited 3 Years

The Verana collection is designed for women. With Verana it’s not business as usual. Vibrant colors and smart detailing make transporting everything, including a laptop, more elegant. Comes in Nappa leather, Corduroy, and Canvas styles construction. Features:



- Available in Black and Red
- Lined interior
- Multiple compartments to keep all your essentials organized
- Smart sleeve attaches to upright handle for carrying convenience
- Laptop compartment 10.25” H x 14.5” W x 1.75” D

### **Targus** [www.targus.com](http://www.targus.com)

The new SonicPak speaker backpack (TSB116US) provide way to listen to music while on-the-go. With



removable front panel speakers, which are protected from the Earth's elements by a shock resistant EVA panel and water resistant zippers, consumers can listen to their favorite music anywhere. Comes in stylish silver tones and features a padded compartment for protection of laptop of up to 15.4". Bring your favorite music along by sliding your iPod, MP3 Player or any other digital device with headset capability into the secure, custom-made back pocket. The front panel is a lightweight amplifier, which includes NXT "exciters", giving users quality sound at an impressive volume. The backpack also includes side mesh water bottle holders, adjustable, padded shoulder straps, molded carrying handle, oversized zipper pulls for easy gripping, and a fully equipped interior workstation that includes plenty of pockets for your accessories. The SonicPak has a battery compartment with an on/off switch and a power-indicator LED light. The SonicPak measures 13.98" x 7.48" x 18.11" and only weighs 3.95 lbs. Backed by a limited lifetime warranty, Targus it will be available in March 2008 for a suggested retail price of \$100 at Targus.com.



The Velos Messengers are available in three color combinations – chocolate with a chocolate and aqua strap (TSM063US), charcoal with black and lime green strap (TSM06301US) and wheat with mushroom and orange strap (TSM06302US). Each case comes with two different colored straps, which run along the sides and wrap around the bottom of the case, allowing users to interchange the straps for a unique new look that can fit any style. The laptop compartment has dual cushioning with a neoprene sleeve to protect laptops with up to 15.4" screens. For added convenience, the bags have a removable shoulder strap pad and feature a back slip pocket for business documents, folders or magazines. The bags measure 14.3" x 11" x 1.7". Available May 2008 at an estimated street price of \$70 at Targus.com



as well as through leading retailers.

## **Voltaic Systems** [www.voltaicsystems.com](http://www.voltaicsystems.com)

Announced the introduction of a new laptop bag which generates enough solar power to charge laptops. They expect it to be shipping Spring '08. It uses a single solar panel to produce up to 14.7 watts of power. This is enough to fully charge a typical laptop from a full day of sunlight. The bag also charges virtually all other handheld electronics. The bag includes a battery pack custom designed to efficiently capture and store solar power so it is available whether the sun is up or not. Adaptors are included for easy connection to common laptops, phones and universal plugs. Devices can also be connected via a car charger or the USB plug built into the battery. The bag is stylishly constructed from fabrics made with recycled soda bottles (PET) which are tough, waterproof and UV resistant. It includes a protective frame and padded laptop sleeve with ample room for other electronics, notebooks etc. The solar panels come in four color options: a distinctive orange, silver, green and a more discrete charcoal. The MSRP for the Generator is \$599. Other bags in the Voltaic line are priced as low as \$199.



## **Printers**

### **Kodak** [www.kodak.com](http://www.kodak.com)

The KODAK EASYSHARE 5300 AiO Printer (\$200 US MSRP) uses Kodak's premium, pigment-based ink, priced at \$10 for a cartridge of black ink and \$15 for a five-ink color cartridge (US MSRP), and can save consumers up to 50 percent on everything they print compared to similar consumer inkjet printers. The All-in-One Printer offers a 3-inch color LCD display that enables photo viewing and cropping directly from the printer. Memory card slots provide an additional quick and simple way to print digital pictures without a PC. Featuring print,



scan and copy capabilities it delivers high-quality documents and photos for users who enjoy printing without limitations. The 5300 can print and copy up to 32 pages per minute in black and 30 pages per minute in color, and print photos from PICTBRIDGE enabled cameras without involving a PC.

#### PlanOn [www.planon.com](http://www.planon.com)



For those that travel and always looking to

borrow a printer, here is the answer. The PRINTSTIK. It's the only truly mobile printer which can print directly through a USB connection or through various Bluetooth® enabled devices.

- With Bluetooth connectivity, print from your laptop, smart phone or PDA
- Prints characters and graphics clearly (no smudging) - and no leaking ink
- Printing speed up to three pages per minute
- Pocket size - including a cartridge roll of 20 pages and battery
- Minimal moving parts for printing, designed ruggedly for portable reliability
- Weight 1.5 lbs with battery & paper
- Size = Height Width Depth 1"x10.75" x 1.9"
- Print Method Direct Thermal
- Print Resolution 200 DPI
- Battery Type Rechargeable-Lithium Ion
- Pages per Battery Charge 40
- Works with Computers - XP, Vista, Blackberry®, many Java Phones

Imagine taking images from your Smartphone and printing them out while on-the-go without needing to be near a computer. The MSRP for the PRINTSTIK is \$299.

#### Ricoh [www.ricoh-usa.com](http://www.ricoh-usa.com)

Ricoh Americas Corporation, introduced a new series of color laser printers – the Aficio® SP C222DN Series – and color laser multifunction products (MFPs) – the Aficio® SP C222SF Series.

Managing the Aficio SP C222DN Series is made simple with Status Image Monitor software, which enables users to check supply levels and change settings via the Web. Furthermore, the printers control

panel uses an alert light for error notifications and LED indicators that tell users when supplies need to be replenished. Ricoh equipped this series with All-in-One Cartridges that can be replaced with one hand and a top-loading design on the printers for easy access and less mess. Users can also print photos via the color printers' PictBridge™ support that can be connected to a compliant digital camera.

The SP C220S is equipped with copy, print and scan capabilities. The Aficio SP C221SF and SP C222SF print and copy at 21 ppm. The Aficio SP C221SF and SP C222SF also offer facsimile features that include a G3 transmission speed of 3 seconds per page, a 100-page memory capacity and 20 One-Touch numbers and 50 Speed Dials, which provide increased speed and convenience.

The Aficio SP C221SF and SP C222SF offer automatic duplex printing and all models feature Scan-to technologies and TWAIN drivers, making it possible to reduce paper usage and supply costs. The PageManager utility, enables automated file management, OCR scanning, and other time-saving functions.

Ricoh Aficio SP C222DN and SP C222DSF Series Specifications

Resolution (dpi)

- 600 x 600 dpi (Speed Mode)
- 1200 x 600 dpi (Standard Mode)
- 2400 x 600 dpi (Fine Mode)

Printing Speed

- SP C220DN: 16 ppm B&W and Full-Color
- SP C221DN / SP C222DN: 21 ppm B&W and Full-Color
- First Print Speed: B&W/ Full-Color 14 seconds or less

Standard Interface: SP C220DN / SP C221DN: USB 2.0, Ethernet 10/100Base-TX

Optional Interface: IEEE 802.11b/g Wireless Bridge SX 2500CG

#### Samsung Electronics [www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)

Launched the [CLP-610ND](#) color laser printer which includes one pass, dual side printing feature (auto duplex). It integrates the power of a 360MHz processor and speed of an embedded 64MB RAM that is expandable to 384MB. Print with resolutions of 2400 x 600 and at speeds of up to 21ppm at a fraction of what it costs to send the job to a local copy store. The an average monthly duty cycle is 65,000 pages. MSRP is \$400.

Two new laser printers monochrome single function (the [ML – 1630](#)) and multifunction laser printer (the [SCX – 4500](#)) are designed for high performance, with fast print speeds of up to 17 pages per minute. , 5K monthly duty cycle and industry-recognized printer reliability. They are also designed to address common user concerns with button-less touch-sensor panels that reduce the user interface, a semi-automatic paper tray for easy paper replacement, guided toner path to ensure easy toner replacement plus easily recognizable warning lights, all to ensure the devices are extremely easy to use and maintain. MSRP for the SCX – 4500 is \$299 and \$199 for the ML – 1630.



resolution is now available to customers direct starting at \$1,999. It includes a USB-sized connector, double the scalable performance of DVI. Response time is 8ms, with a dynamic contrast ratio of 3000:1.



Extensive connectivity with DisplayPort, HDMI, DVI-D with HDCP, VGA, S-Video, Component and Composite connectors.

#### **Gateway** [www.gateway.com](http://www.gateway.com)

The world's first "Quad-HD" display, the 30-inch XHD3000 delivers more than four times the resolution of standard 720p high-definition along with advanced display technology. It features a 2560x1600 widescreen ultra-high resolution and uses the Silicon Optix Realta® HQV® video processor for incredibly detailed images. In addition, the display's advanced upconversion makes standard-definition video look high-definition, and will even upscale 1080p high-definition video to an astonishing 1600p. Comes with high-performance DXPTM powered speaker system using eight high-powered, low-profile neodymium transducers.



## LCD Monitors

### **ASUS** [www.asus.com](http://www.asus.com)

The 22.0" Wide Screen PG221U is designed for gaming, comes with subwoofer and has a 2 ms Response Time. Built-in 2.1 channel speakers, 1.3 Mega Pixel rotatable webcam and earphone/ microphone jacks for real-time online communications during games. True Resolution: WSXGA+ 1680x1050, Contrast Ratio(Max.): 2000:1.



Their 20" LS201 Monitor is a slim form-factor monitor with 9H protective glass. Native resolution is 1440 x 900, and comes with built-in 2.1 channel speakers, 1.3 Mega Pixel rotatable webcam and earphone/ microphone jacks.

### **Dell** [www.dell.com/monitors](http://www.dell.com/monitors)

Showcased the UltraSharp™ 3008WFP 30-inch widescreen flat panel monitor with DisplayPort. The TrueColor WQXGA display with 2560 x 1600

The 24-inch High Definition Widescreen LCD (FHD2400) features include soft touch controls, ultrabright glare panels with fast response times, high definition resolutions, and DCDi by Faroudja enhanced video processing. 1080p HD support and 1920x1200 resolution, with an auto-rotation capability allows the display to be viewed in both landscape and portrait modes, providing a 160-degree viewing angle. The touch-sensitive controls provide access to on-screen menus for tuning the brightness, contrast and other features of the displays.

### **LG.Philips LCD** [www.lgphilips-lcd.com](http://www.lgphilips-lcd.com)

Announced a 14.3-inch E-paper display, which is





equivalent in size to an A4 sheet of paper, represents a significant improvement over its predecessors with a never before seen resolution of 1280 by 800 pixels, and the ability to display 16.7 million colors,

making it perfect for use in high end multimedia applications. These displays are extremely energy efficient, only using power when the image changes. Additionally, the displays are extremely thin, at less than 300 micrometers. The use of metal foil and plastic substrates, rather than glass substrate makes the flexible color E-paper display bendable and durable, while maintaining display qualities. Like its predecessors, this 14.3-inch display uses a substrate that arranges thin-film transistors (TFT) on metal foil rather than glass, allowing it to recover its original shape after being bent. Furthermore, it can also be viewed from a full 180 degrees, so that images always appear crisp, even when the display is bent. They showed its 52-inch full HD multi-touch screen for public displays. The company also showcased its 47-inch ultra-slim LCD panel for TVs that is substantially thinner than conventional panels – only 19.8 mm – and also boasts the thinnest available bezel, just 14 mm wide. The panel also features LG.Philips LCD's cutting edge 120Hz technology, eliminating motion blur, and Full HD resolution. They also showed the benefits of IPS technology at 120Hz, including viewing angle, motion picture response time (MPRT), power consumption and frame doubling to 120Hz.

At its Green Technology Zone they demonstrated:

- Low power 42-inch LCD panel for full HD LCD TVs with adaptive backlight dimming control to reduce power consumption by 50 percent
- 42-inch LCD panel for full HD LCD TVs with LCD Picture Improvement Solution (LPiS) technology, which offers reduced power consumption
- 13.3-inch wide XGA LCD for notebook computers with the world's lowest circuit driving power
- 15.4-inch LCD panel for notebook computers,

offering reduced power consumption and enhanced portability through the spotlight function in the backlight unit

In the IT Technology Zone:

- 17-inch LCD with electronically driven LCD lens that switches to a 3D display
- 22-inch LCD and 15.4-inch Wide LCDs for IT applications, featuring LG.Philips LCD's proprietary Anti-Pollution Polarizer (APP) technology that resists fingerprints and other marks
- 14.1-inch Wide LCD with Viewing Angle Image Control, which protects users from exposing personal information while using the screen

Advanced LCD Monitors

- The W52 series, 19, 20, 22, and 24-inch monitors feature a high-gloss, piano black cabinet with a curved bezel accent. Digital Fine Contrast Technology boosts the contrast ratio to 10,000:1. The 19, 20 and 22-inch models' feature a 2ms response time. LG's "ez Zooming" technology helps users quickly change the image size and resolution with the click of a button, an ideal tool for smaller fonts or images that need to be magnified.
- W00 Series (W3000, W2600) - Features support for "Full HD" 1080p resolution and incorporates LG's slim and narrow design. The unit has a 2ms response time, high resolutions (2,560 x 1,600 resolution, W3000; 1,920 x 1,200 resolution, W2600), and a 10,000:1 contrast ratio. It is available in 26- and 30-inch models.

- L7W Series (L227WT) – The unit incorporates an anti-glare screen which minimizes glare often caused by fluorescent or harsh lighting. It has 2ms

response time, 10,000:1 contrast ratio, 300cd/m<sup>2</sup> brightness, 1,680 x 1,050 resolution and an wide viewing angle of 170 x 170 degrees. It is available in a 22-inch model.



## **Samsung Electronics** [www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com)

Unveiled the new SyncMaster 220TN monitor, the company's first VoIP-enabled network monitor. Featuring a built-in camera, microphone and speaker the monitor facilitates true-to-life web conferencing, which can reduce long-distance phone costs and the need for frequent business travel. With a 22" wide screen and a 2.0M pixel webcam, the 220TN monitor is enabled to support multiple work applications, therefore enhancing productivity in a range of professional settings. Resolution is 1680 x 1050, coupled with a wide 16:10 aspect ratio, a 5 ms GTG response time, 700:1 contrast ratio and 300cd/m2 brightness, the model is equipped to produce crisp, true-to-life images. The wide 170/160 viewing angle further enhances the overall viewing experience. The monitor also incorporates dual inputs for DVI-D and analog. Another 22-inch monitor the SyncMaster 2263DX is capable of connecting to a computer via USB, without the need of any additional video hardware. The monitor creates a more productive, flexible work environment for users who require multiple screens. It features an additional seven-inch monitor connected to the display. The extra screen enables users to create and edit documents on the 22-inch screen while using the additional screen to simultaneously Instant Message or read emails. Resolution is 1680 x 1050, while the viewing angle is 160/160, the contrast ratio is an outstanding 8,000:1, complimented by a 2 ms GTG response time.



The new SyncMaster XL30 is a 30-inch Light Emitting Diode (LED) Back Light Unit (BLU) monitor that features up to 123 percent of the National Television System Committee (NTSC) color gamut. Traditional LCD screens typically cover only 82 percent of the NTSC standard color gamut. It is

further enhanced by a Color Management System (CMS) that helps provide vivid and precise color. The CMS includes color calibration, which enables more accurate quality control, and Image Viewer, an intuitive tool that corrects color differences between monitors and printers. Furthermore, it features Natural Color Expert software which allows users to calibrate the monitor's color profile to fit their specific color requirements. Resolution is 2560 x 1600, combined with an impressive 1000:1 contrast ratio. All Samsung displays are backed by a three-year limited warranty on labor and parts, including the backlight, as well as toll-free technical support for the life of the display.

## **TV cards**

### **AverMedia** [www.aver.com](http://www.aver.com)

AVerTV Hybrid VolarMax is an external, flash drive size USB TV tuner with the ability to receive both



Analog or HDTV on a Windows XP or Vista desktop or laptop. HDTV can be viewed either

over the air ATSC, or via Unencrypted "Clear" QAM support which enables user to watch HDTV through their cable provider. Advanced H.264 recording compression significantly reduces the amount of hard disk needed for recording. The optional 320x240 resolution enables users to save video to an iPod video. MSRP is \$90.

The AVerTV Hybrid NanoExpress is a 54mm ExpressCard TV Tuner allowing users to view both Analog and HDTV on their ExpressCard compatible Laptop. The Slim-Fit design easily inserts completely



into the ExpressCard slot, leaving no protrusion of the unit outside of the laptop. HDTV can be viewed either over-the-air or via the Unencrypted

"Clear" QAM support which enables user to watch HDTV through their cable provider. Advanced H.264 recording compression significantly reduces the amount of hard disk needed for recording. The optional 320x240 resolution enables users to save

video to an iPod video. MSRP is \$130.

AVerTV Hybrid ExpressCard is a Hybrid Analog Worldwide standard TV and ATSC receiver card certified with Express Card 54mm Interface solution. It is Windows Vista (32/64 bit) Premium Certified and Windows XP Certified Solution. With it and the supplied antenna laptop users can watch Over-the-Air Digital TV (ATSC) shows or Analog TV programs anywhere. In addition, with MPEG-2 hardware encoder built-in, this device lowers the consumption of CPU process and guarantees customers high-quality video content editing, such as instant recording, playback, and TimeShift functionalities.

### Hauppauge [www.hauppauge.com](http://www.hauppauge.com)

#### WinTV-HVR-1600

- Dual format TV receiver for your PC. Watch ATSC digital TV or analog cable TV, in a window or full screen.
- Watch and record all ATSC formats, including the highest definition 1080i format.
- Includes TV scheduler, remote control and IR blaster to control satellite and cable TV set top boxes.
- Bundled software includes a TV scheduler with link to TitanTV™ plus Ulead's® DVD MovieFactory™ authoring and burning software.
- 125 channel cable ready TV receiver built-in. With dbx-TV stereo decoder, for great TV sound.
- Composite/S-Video and audio inputs, for cable or satellite set top boxes or VCRs.
- Record TV shows to your PC's hard disk using the built-in high quality hardware MPEG-2 encoder. While recording, the hardware encoder does all the work so your PC continues to run at full speed.
- If you are using digital cable which broadcasts digital cable channels "in the clear" (clear QAM), you can receive these QAM channels with the new WinTV v6 application.



#### MediaMVP

- Watch and listen to PC music, videos or

pictures on your TV set.

- Connects to Ethernet (wired) local area network, or it can connect over 802.11G wireless networks.
- Listen to Internet radio stations on your TV set.
- Remote control for easy access to your PC media from your TV set. MediaMVPs remote control allows you to navigate through your PC's disk drives, and displays media names, directories and other information on the TV set.
- Up to 24 wired MediaMVPs can be connected on a home network, or add up to four wireless MediaMVPs. Listen to PC music on one TV set while watching an MPEG movie on another.



Play MPEG movies on your TV set. Create MPEG videos on your PC with Hauppauge's WinTV (optional), then play those videos on your TV set. The remote control gives you complete control over your PC multimedia. Pause, fast forward, rewind, skip or fast skip through videos. Play and pause music and digital picture shows. You can adjust the audio volume from MediaMVPs remote control, so you won't need to use your TV's remote control.

Technically speaking MediaMVP is a Linux based digital media receiver. Inside is a high performance IBM PowerPC processor and a hardware MPEG audio/video decoder for MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 videos and MP3 music.

#### WinTV-HVR-950 hybrid TV stick

- Watch and record cable TV, or over-the-air ATSC high definition digital TV. programs, in a window or full screen on your PC or laptop monitor.
- Schedule your TV recordings, using the high quality MPEG-2 video recording





format.

- Pocket size, easy to install on USB2. The perfect traveling companion for desktop or laptops.
- Media Center compatible. Watch and recording TV with Microsoft's Windows Media Center.
- Includes Hauppauge's WinTV application to watch and record TV in a window or full screen. With WinTV-Scheduler, so you can record your favorite TV programs daily, weekly or once only.
- Analog cable TV receiver built-in. Will also work with TV antenna.

**Pinnacle** [www.pinnaclesys.com](http://www.pinnaclesys.com)

PCTV HD Card (\$80)

Pinnacle PCTV™

HD Card brings SD and HD TV with

full personal video recorder (PVR)

functionality to

your PC – with no desktop clutter.

Watch, time shift and even automatically

record all of your favorite HD and SD

TV shows with no service fees.



- 3-in-1 TV tuner card for digital TV (ATSC), analog TV (NTSC) and FM radio
- Watch SD and free HD TV on your PC - no service fees
- Includes remote control and FM radio antenna
- Hardware ready for ClearQAM (unencrypted digital cable) reception
- Automatically record shows to your hard drive in the destination file format of choice (i.e. MPEG-2, DivX, etc.), or even direct-to-DVD
- Capture from your cable/satellite set-top box or camcorder with the included A/V adapter cable
- Turns your PC into a personal video recorder (PVR) with time shifting: pause, rewind TV
- Trim you videos with Pinnacle Studio™ QuickStart3

TVCenter Pro beta version with ClearQAM support now available as free download

PCTV HD Stick (\$80)

Bring digital and analog TV with full PVR

functionality to your PC and enjoy all of your favorite shows on your PC in high quality anytime and anywhere.



- Instantly turn your PC into a personal digital video recorder
- Fully compatible with Windows Vista™ and XP Media Center Edition
- Ultra-portable USB 2.0 TV tuner
- Watch SD and free HD TV on your PC - no service fees
- Instantly transform your PC into a personal digital video recorder (PVR)
- Mini antenna included (for digital TV reception in good signal areas; rooftop aerial is recommended for optimum reception)
- Supports both analog (NTSC) and digital (ATSC) TV signals

## **FREE WEEK OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT @ CYBERDEFENDER**

Show your computer some love this Valentine's – If there's anything wrong with your computer – our techs will fix it! We're also including tech support for our competitor products.

CyberDefender Support Available at (877) 377-3765  
Promo Code - Valentine

# Need a sticky note? Put it on your computer!

by Linda Gonse, Editor & Webmaster, Orange County IBM PC Users' Group, CA  
www.orcopug.org  
editor(at)orcopug.org

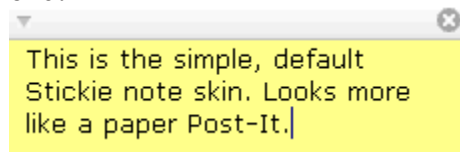
Obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups.

Sticky note programs for your pc, as you might imagine, are a utility that takes the place of paper Post-It notes that we all stick to our monitors!

But, sticky note programs I've researched this year discouraged me from even trying them out. Sometimes they didn't have enough features, or if they did, they were expensive.

Then, someone recommended a program called Stickies, created by Tom Revell, at [www.zhornsoftware.co.uk/](http://www.zhornsoftware.co.uk/). So, I looked at Stickies on the web page, liked what I saw, and downloaded the program.

My first discovery about the program is that it is small, 953Kb, and doesn't interfere with system files and doesn't write to the registry. In fact, Stickies stores all its information in a single text-based ini file. When was the last time you had a program on your computer as well-mannered as this one?



An icon in your system tray will allow you quick access to Stickies'

features and options. From this dropdown list you can manage your Stickies notes, configure them, get help, and download new skins. When you do make a Sticky, it won't disappear unless you tell it to, and it stays where it is placed. You can edit, format, and print them. Make as many as you want, or as many as your screen space will permit. But, to save room and keep Stickies organized, they will snap to each other and to the sides of the screen where they can be neatly lined up. You can even "hide" them from view.

Besides viewing Stickies on your screen, you can attach them to a website, a document, or a folder, so they only appear when the objects they are attached to are on the screen.

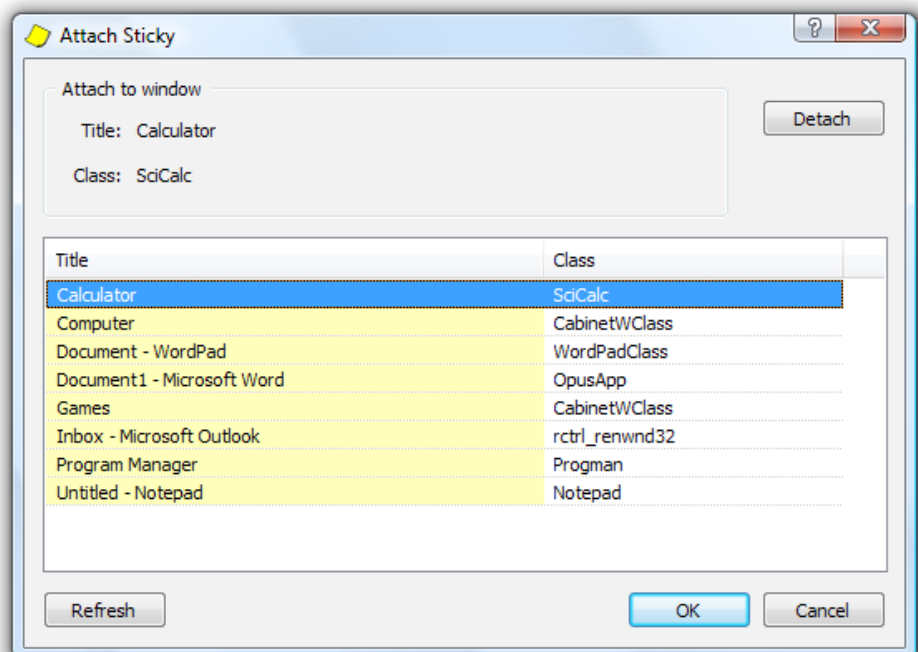
Stickies are portable, too. You can transfer Stickies from one computer to another over your TCP/IP network connection, to your PDA and back again, or send to friends in email.

They can be set to "sleep" and appear on a specified date and time. They can even play a sound alarm so they get your attention when they "awaken"!

What's fun is being able to customize the notes with various fonts, colors and buttons. You can even download customized skins from a big selection to change the outward appearance of the notes — plain, borderless, simple border, etc. The notes can be resized, just like the sticky notes in Acrobat.

Stickies are located in five categories within the application so you can see and manage them. You can search for information in Stickies, wake sleeping Stickies, restore closed Stickies and detach Stickies.

What else? Oh, yes! Another attractive feature of Stickies is...the program is free!  
What are you waiting for? Try it out and see if you like this little program as much as I do!



# The History of St. Valentine's Day

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day - and its patron saint - is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men, his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first valentine greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl who may have been his jailor's daughter, who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed - From your Valentine, an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

There are varying ideas about what actually became of Valentine. In 1835 the remains -- or what are believed to be the remains of St. Valentine were given to a Irish priest named Father John Spratt by Pope Gregory XVI, after Spratt impressed the Pope with his passionate preaching during a visit to Rome. The gift, in a black and gold casket, can still be viewed every Valentine's Day at the Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland.

On the WINNERS Computer book excerpts webpage (<http://www.windowsusers.org/books.html>) book companies that have user group programs send information about their latest books. They also include discount information for the purchase of the books. To get the discount code check with your user group officers. Some example of what is on this page:

## The Creative Digital Darkroom

By Katrin Eismann, Sean Duggan \$44.99

Takes photographers beyond the quick tips and gimmicky effects of many digital photography books. Windows Vista Annoyances

Tips, Secrets, and Hacks for the Cranky Consumer

By David A. Karp \$34.99

Windows Vista may be the next big thing, but it still contains enough quirks and unaccountable behaviors to vex anyone.

There are links to some great tips from O'Reilly Press on:

- Two Slick QuickTime Tricks - Turn your video on its ear! Our hands-on tutorial shows you how to work with vertical movies and then embed them in a web page.
- Web Domination Using Photoshop - The time has come for designers to execute their plans to dominate the Internet with stunning graphics.
- Your New iTunes Movies to DVD (and Protect Your Other iTunes Purchases)
- Better Registry Searching
- Windows Mobile Weekly Roundup

## Real World Adobe Photoshop CS3

By David Blatner, Conrad Chavez and Bruce Fraser \$59.99

In this copiously illustrated book, he shows you how to sharpen your Photoshop production techniques and provides clear explanations of the concepts that drive them.

## The Digital Photography Book, Volume 2

By Scott Kelby \$24.99

In Plain English he gives tips on using flash, shooting close up photography, travel photography, shooting people, and even how to build a studio from scratch.

Look at Online Sample Chapters for:

Designing Webbed Environments

Creating Web Pages for Screen, Print, and Email

Edgy Edge Effects in Photoshop



# VALENTINE WORD SEARCH

T	R	U	E	C	U	P	I	D	R
V	A	L	D	T	L	M	E	R	O
A	N	L	O	V	E	R	O	S	S
L	L	O	V	M	K	I	R	R	E
I	C	U	E	M	P	E	D	E	S
N	A	C	L	O	W	O	T	R	U
T	H	E	A	O	M	A	R	R	Y
I	E	E	L	A	L	V	A	L	P
N	A	F	A	O	L	R	O	L	S
E	R	A	C	R	R	S	E	T	Y
R	T	O	D	O	V	G	L	L	Y
U	H	P	R	S	N	E	N	I	W
C	J	K	L	A	A	M	O	D	Q
R	O	M	A	N	C	E	Z	O	O
A	B	C	D	E	F	S	S	I	K

1. CUPID
2. VALENTINE
3. ROSES
4. KISS
5. LOVE
6. WINE
7. ANGEL
8. HEARTS

9. FLOWERS
10. TRUE
11. ROMANCE
12. MOON
13. MARRY
14. DOVE
15. CHOCOLATE



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meets at  
The Fountain Valley Branch Library  
17635 Los Alamos  
Fountain Valley  
meetings on 3rd Saturday  
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

#### Website

<http://www.windowsusers.org/>

Be sure to check out our three most popular pages

Clip Art - A listing of web sites that have free clip art  
<http://www.windowsusers.org/clipart.htm>

Medical Websites - Here is a list of suggested sites to  
get health news and information  
<http://www.windowsusers.org/medical-websites.html>

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group programs and send user groups information about  
their latest books. They also include discount informa-  
tion for the purchase of the books. To get the discount  
code check with your user group officers.  
<http://www.windowsusers.org/books.html>